Hafa Adai!

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Saipan Tribune

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'We must improve on Covenant'

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Torres: Build on success/ history of Covenant

Torres

Through negotiations with the federal government and dialogue within the CNMI, the Commonwealth must still improve the supreme law governing its land, the Covenant, which established a political union with the U.S., Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said yesterday, as the Commonwealth looks toward the next 40 years with this landmark document as its guide in self-government.

Today, March 24, marks the 40th anniversary of the federal law that put into effect the agreement the CNMI knows as the Covenant. The law, signed by President Gerald Ford, paved the way for

See COVENANT on Page 4

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

Northern Islands mayor Jerome Aldan presented to the Marianas Visitors Authority board of directors their "Discover Pagan" project which aims to develop Pagan as an ecotourism site. Aldan said he needs the support of MVA as well as funding to hopefully begin the project this year.

'Discover Pagan' project proposed to MVA board

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Pagan as the next adventure destination attraction in the Marianas—this is the goal of Northern Islands Mayor Jerome Aldan as he presented possible tourism projects that could be developed on the said island before the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Aldan showcased various sites on Pagan that could be ecotourism attractions.

Aside from cliffs and highpoints that could be hiked, Pagan also has a lone white sand beach and various black sand beaches.

"Besides the sceneries of Pagan, Pagan offers the adventure of a lifetime," Aldan said.

He added that Pagan abounds with wild pigs, open cattle, colorful birds, fruit bats, and giant coconut crabs and lobsters.

Aldan also said that Pagan has a small remote fishing community, which aside from hiking and going to beach, can be another activity option.

"That can be the steering and driving force for island goers such as cliff fishing, diving," Aldan said.

He also mentioned trips that were made by several cruise liners to Pagan including another one in June 17 to 19 for the Konferencian Dinana Islas Marianas organizaed by the Association for the Mariana Island Mayors were there will be 100 participants from the CNMI and Guam.

Aldan sought the MVA board's help in funding the project and gave a "realistic figure" of $152,950 to fund some

See MVA on Page 4

AMID TERROR ATTACKS IN BRUSSELS

FBI sees no imminent threat in Pacific, Hawaii

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» CNMI told to be vigilant

Amid the simultaneous terror attacks that killed dozens in Brussels in Belgium, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has not seen an imminent threat in the Pacific and Hawaii.

FBI spokesman Tom Simon said the Honolulu FBI is not aware of any credible terrorist threat targeting Hawaii and or the Pacific at this time.

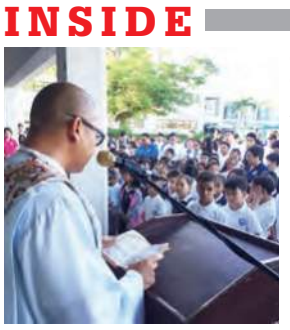
Simon said their Joint Terrorism Task Force is closely monitoring the situation in Brussels and that the FBI remains in contact with its counterparts in the region.

Simon reminded the public to remain vigilant and be aware of their surroundings.

"Anyone can report suspicious activity to the Honolulu

See FBI on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL
After almost two years of development, Mount Carmel School opened a new campus chapel this week.

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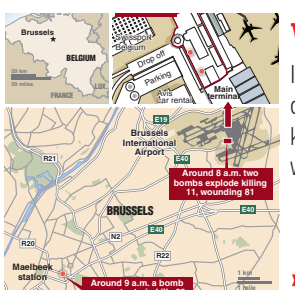

WORLD
Islamic extremists struck Tuesday in the heart of Europe, killing at least 34 people and wounding scores of others.

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LIFE & STYLE
"Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" offers the kind of blunt, mano-a-mano faceoff usually reserved for Predators, Godzillas and presidential candidates.

» PAGE 20

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Former lawmaker pleads guilty, gets 3-day prison term

Former lawmaker Juan Iguel Tenorio has entered a guilty plea and was slapped with a three-day prison term in connection with the charges that he beat up a male teenager in Marpi.

At a change of plea hearing on Tuesday, Tenorio, 66, pleaded guilty to the offense of assault and battery.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo granted Tenorio's guilty plea and the plea agreement.

Govendo sentenced the defendant to one-year imprisonment, all suspended except three days.

Tenorio was given credit for three days of time served. It means that he would no longer serve more time in prison.

Govendo placed Tenorio on supervised probation for one year and ordered him to pay restitution to the victim in the amount of $478.

Tenorio

Defendant's posting of $500 cash bail was exonerated and applied to satisfy the restitution to the victim. The remaining $22 was applied toward $25 court costs, with $3 to be owed.

Tenorio was ordered to pay $100 in probation fee.

The former lawmaker was ordered to complete 60 hours of anger management counseling at his own expense. He was required to submit proof of his completion of counseling to the Office of Adult Probation.

The defendant is prohibited from having direct or indirect contact with the victim during the probationary period.

Govendo ordered Tenorio to obey all Commonwealth and federal laws as well as all of the rules of the Office of Adult Probation.

As part of the plea deal, Govendo granted the government's motion to dismiss the

See FORMER on Page 4

Teenager arrested for sexual abuse of minor

Police arrested on Tuesday in As Lito a 19-year-old male who allegedly engaged in sex with his 15-year-old girlfriend twice in the Garapan area.

Ashiqur Rahaman, 19, was arrested for sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree, sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, and assault and battery.

At a bail hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman imposed a $25,000 cash bail

Chief public defender Douglas Hartig was appointed as counsel for Rahaman. Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds appeared for the government.

Police Detective Myron O. Laniyo stated in his report that Rahaman allegedly had sex with the girl on two occasions—on a bench at the American Memorial Park and in the grassy area near 13 Fishermen Monument.

Laniyo said the investigation began when a then-off duty police officer called the Department of Public Safety last March 7 to report about a sexual abuse of a minor case.

Laniyo said that the following day, the girl was accompanied by her mother and sister to DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau where she was interviewed.

The girl told police that the first incident happened last Feb. 26 and the second occurred last March 4.

Laniyo said last March 17 they interviewed Kosam, who admitted that he engaged in sexual penetration with his girlfriend on two occasions. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Fiji Relief Drive this April 9 at Garapan Fishing Base

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is partnering with community groups to launch a Fiji Cyclone Relief Drive this April 9 at the Garapan Fishing Base from 7am to 4pm, Office of the Governor spokesman Ivan Blanco told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Some 15 individuals met for planning event at the Office of Governor's conference room yesterday, Blanco said, including those from the Governor's Office, Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog's office, and representatives from KKMP, Best Sunshine International, Ltd., Lion's Club, and members of the Fijian community.

The event hopes to raise funds, clothing, food, and tools for those in Fiji, after Cyclone Winston devastated the islands late last month, claiming 46 lives and leaving 12 missing.

The cyclone was reported to have affected 350,000 people, or 40 percent of the total population and currently, 54,000 people remain sheltered in 960 evacuation centers.

Blanco said the CNMI has raised funds for Nepal, American Samoa, Chuuk, Yap, and other places after they were affected by disaster.

"And now we're doing it for Fiji," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

"We are grateful for the things that we have, all the help that was given to us after Typhoon Soudelor. And we know how Fiji feels after devastation.

"As a community we also want to help out. We also want to give because we have received," he said.

Kyowa Shipping, via Saipan Shipping Company, has already generously donated a 40-foot shipping container with transportation via ocean freight to Suva, Fiji, Blanco said.

Blanco said they will be accepting cash donations, goods, household items like tarps, mattresses, clothes, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, canned food, water, and mosquito coils, among others.

The drive will feature live local entertainment, live radio broadcast on KKMP Radio, with all donations acknowledged on the radio.

Last Feb. 20, Cyclone Winston, a category five cyclone, packed sustained winds of 145 miles per hour with gusts up to 185 mph hot Fiji. It is said to be the second most powerful cyclone recorded in world history. Second only to Super Typhoon Haiyan, which devastated the Central Philippines in November 2013.

'WALK FOR THE RED' PRIZE DONATION CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacific Islands Club Saipan general manager Hiro Sugie, standing, second from left, and PIC management team present 200 waterpark passes to the American Red Cross NMI Chapter' executive director, John Hirsh, seventh from left, and Chapter case workers and representatives. The PIC Waterpark Passes will be used as prizes in the upcoming "Walk for the Red" fundraising event on April 30, 2016.

Chargualaf wants to meet Vietnam War vets

Veteran Max Chargualaf is trying to reach out to all veterans of the Vietnam War here in the CNMI. He is asking them to call him at 285-1948 so they could arrange a date for a meeting.

Vietnam War veterans are those who served or have been deployed from Nov. 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975. Chargualaf said you still qualify as a veteran even though you were not deployed and just worked in a military base or in the office.

"I want to reach out to all the Vietnam War veterans here on Saipan and the CNMI. We're going to honor them during the CNMI Liberation Day Fourth of July celebration," said Chargualaf, who works as the Saipan Mayor's Office's safety officer.

"I just want to know how many are here. Gather and meet them, and get all of their names so we could submit them to the U.S. Vietnam War Commemoration and they can be recognized," added Chargualaf.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang is a Vietnam War veteran who served for two years. He and Chargualaf joined the military in 1967. ***(Jon Perez)***

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FBI

From Page 1

FBI at 808-566-4300," the FBI special agent said.

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiries, Press Secretary Ivan Blanco said the CNMI has been alerted via the U.S. Homeland Security about the need to be vigilant especially within the community and at the entry points.

"Even though Brussels is many miles away, we feel their pain caused by terrorist bombs on civilians," Blanco said.

He said these cowardly actions against civilians should not be tolerated.

"Our sons and daughters are out there serving our country and her allies to defeat and prevent terrorism overseas and at home. We keep the families of the victims and the people of Brussels in our prayers," Blanco said.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh C. Johnson, in press statement, said as a precautionary measure, the Transportation Security Administration is deploying additional security to major city airports in the U.S. and at various rail and transit stations around the country.

Johnson said TSA is also working closely with state and local law enforcement, airport and transit authorities, and the aviation industry in order to augment that security.

US officials step up security

The Obama administration stepped up security at major transit hubs across the country after Tuesday's airport and subway bombings in Brussels, as top U.S. intelligence officials warned of the risk for copycat attacks at home. President Barack Obama vowed to help Belgium track down those responsible for the deadly explosions.

Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson stressed there is no "specific, credible intelligence" pointing to a similar plot in America, but he said the Transportation Security Administration would deploy additional security at major airports and rail stations in different cities. Officials also reviewed additional security measures for travelers from Belgium, among more than three dozen countries whose citizens generally don't need a visa to enter the U.S.

The State Department warned Americans about potential risks to travel in Europe. "Terrorist groups continue to plan near-term attacks throughout Europe, targeting sporting events, tourist sites, restaurants and transportation," it said in a statement. Officials advised U.S. citizens to "exercise vigilance" in public places or on mass transportation and to take "particular caution" during religious events or large events.

The attacks in the Belgian capital underscored the growing threat posed by the Islamic State group on both sides of the Atlantic. The bombs in Brussels' airport and subway locked down the European Union's capital just a few months after attacks shocked Paris and San Bernardino, California.

"We will do whatever is necessary to support our friend and ally Belgium in bringing to justice those who are responsible," Obama declared in Havana, where he was closing his historic, three-day visit. The attack immediately overshadowed events on the island, with Obama addressing the tragedy at the top of a keynote speech to the Cuban people and again at an exhibition baseball game.

"The world must unite," Obama said after offering his condolences in a telephone call with Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel. "We can and we will defeat those who threaten the safety and security of people all around the world."

Several Americans were injured, including an Air Force officer and his wife and four children who were at the airport. The service member is stationed at Joint Force Command Brunssum, in the Netherlands, but the military wouldn't identify him by name. Officials said he was a lieutenant colonel.

Mormon church officials, meanwhile, said three of its missionaries from Utah were seriously injured in the blasts and were hospitalized. They were identified as Richard Norby, 66, of Lehi; Joseph Empey, 20, of Santa Clara; and Mason Wells, 19, of Sandy. They had been serving in Paris and were at the airport with a fourth missionary who was on her way to an assignment in Ohio.

Following the attacks, U.S. European Command announced new prohibitions on unofficial military and Defense Department employee travel to Brussels "until further notice." Official travel to the NATO hub in the city now requires approval.

Secretary of State John Kerry, accompanying Obama in Cuba, said in a statement the U.S. was working to determine the status of all Americans in Brussels. The embassy there issued a statement telling U.S. citizens to stay where they are and "take the appropriate steps to bolster your personal security."

In the United States, the Homeland Security Department said it could further enhance security measures "as appropriate, to protect the American people." It urged Americans to report any suspicious activity to law enforcement authorities.

Johnson said last week that officials were monitoring world events while evaluating whether to raise the nation's security posture or issue another bulletin via the government's National Terror Advisory System. A bulletin was issued in December after American-born Syed Rizwan Farook and his Pakistani wife, Tashfeen Malik, killed 14 people in San Bernardino.

The administration has described the couple as radicalized Muslims inspired by the Islamic State and other extremist groups, but hasn't linked them to any terrorist cell or network.

Rep. Adam Schiff of California, the House Intelligence Committee's top Democrat, said the threat of copycat or lone-wolf attackers may get worse as the Islamic State faces increased military pressure by the U.S.-led air campaign in Iraq and Syria.

"In terms of targets, this may be one of the most dangerous phases," Schiff told The Associated Press shortly after being briefed on the attacks. "ISIS is facing pressure on the battlefield and they are suffering defeats. To enhance their prestige ... they feel the need to lash out at Western targets."

Schiff said it was unclear how closely the Islamic State's leadership in Raqqa, Syria, would have been involved in planning for such an operation. While the group has helped supply and train fighters who've returned to Europe with terrorist intentions, he said the attackers operate with "significant, real autonomy when it comes to when and where to attack."

The early indications, he said, suggest the perpetrators were of North African background and may have been Belgian or French citizens.

Intelligence agencies have been bracing for months for possible attacks in Belgium, especially since last week's arrest of accused Paris attack conspirator Salah Abdeslam, a Belgian-born Frenchman of Moroccan descent.

Schiff said the Brussels plot probably was already underway before Abdeslam's arrest. But his apprehension by authorities may have sped up the plan.

Sen. Angus King, I-Maine, a member of the Senate Intelligence panel who was traveling in Europe with other lawmakers focused on combatting terrorism, told the AP there was avid discussion about greater cooperation in sharing information on extremists.

"Our impression has been from our discussions that although the agencies within the countries are working more closely together, between the countries there is still distrust and reluctance to share information," King said. ***(Associated Press)***

COVENANT

From Page 1

people in the Commonwealth to enjoy, for the most part, the rights and privileges provided under the U.S. Constitution.

Calling it the "supreme law of our land," Torres, in a statement, said the process of putting the document together was not an easy one.

Over the course of four years starting in 1972, the group that became the Marianas Political Status Commission and the district legislature ironed out the details for a political union with the United States of America.

From this, issues of local authority, citizenship, applicability of laws, and the protection of indigenous lands came to govern the 10 articles that comprise the Covenant. The commission negotiated the agreement with the United States for some 27 months and with this work finished, the document was presented to the NMI people, where a majority approved the Covenant in a plebiscite.

"In the last 40 years, we have seen many changes," Torres said. "We initiated a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. We have seen men and women take the seat of leadership, saw children from our villages proceed to new places and make their marks in the world. We've seen our brave stand up and defend the country which brought us out of imperialism, and we have gone farther as a society than our forefathers ever thought we would go."

"Over time though, we have looked to see where improvements could be made with our Covenant, and some items were changed over the years. True, there are some things that still need to be looked at from time to time in this present day, but we still look to the Covenant as our guide. We take an oath to defend it. We must also take an oath to look at avenues to improve it, through negotiations with our federal government and between dialogue amongst ourselves. It is through this process where we can make the supreme law of our land better, and able to oversee us into the next 40 years.

"For many, today may be just another holiday, but it is more than that. It is a celebration of the advancement of our people since the Covenant's passage. As we honor Commonwealth Covenant Day, let us all recount the sacrifices and the successes that our unique political relationship with the United States has created since the approval and adoption of the Covenant in 1975," Torres said.

Torres said today is a day of commemorating the work of the brave few who helped steer the course for future generations of our people.

"Let us honor the framers, those still living and those who have left us and their hopes to guide our Commonwealth forward. We thank them for their foresight, their courage, and for the inspiration they've provided.

"We are products of your labor, and we will definitely not let you down."

Ford signed the Covenant on March 24, 1976 and stated then that the signing confirmed the United States' commitment "to the principle of self-determination" and joined the U.S. with the Marianas "under one flag and one common citizenship…the first major addition to United States territory in the Pacific since 1898."

Ford hoped for the CNMI to contribute to maintaining peace and stability in remembrance of the conflict and suffering during the Battle of Saipan, Torres said. And these initial steps to self-government, he added, are a stark reminder of the infancy of the CNMI government but also "our resilience and strength to eventually rise to self-determination."

Torres acknowledges, "there is still more to be done" socio-economically, in culture, and in government and urged the community to celebrate the historic agreement "that allowed for our freedoms today."

Torres encourages those who have yet to read the CNMI Covenant to log onto cnmilaw.org/cnmicovenant.html to learn more about the historic document and how it continues to shape our lives as the CNMI navigates its course as the Marianas.

MVA

From Page 1

of the initial beautification projects that they proposed. This includes buying gear and supplies, equipment, construction materials, landscaping, putting up signs, rehabilitation and restoration, floating dock construction, and transportation of the materials.

"In order for me to move forward with these plans, I need the help of MVA as far as tourism is concerned," Aldan said.

"It's time for discovery and adventure is ripe for MVA's consideration for active marketing and promotion," he added.

Aldan said tourism in Pagan could be more of a high-end tourism and they are also thinking of bringing agents and operators to conduct a study tour of what is the possibility of bringing tourists in Pagan.

He added that they've been working on this proposal as early as five years ago, but that action shoud be done soon. He said he hopes to start the project this year.

"That proposal dates back even as far the former mayor, my dad, Tobias Aldan," Aldan said, "We've laid the foundation. We've been talking back and forth and we need to do something and this is the right time to do it."

FORMER

From Page 2

remaining charge of disturbing the peace.

Assistant attorney general Shannon Foley appeared for the government. Attorney Edward Arriola served as counsel for Tenorio.

According to the factual basis of the plea deal, on April 2, 2015 on Saipan, Tenorio caused bodily harm to the victim by punching him in the face.

Foley stated in the information that Tenorio screamed profanities at the victim and punched him in the face.

Police detective Jesus K. Wabol stated in his report that a responding police officer learned that the 19-year-old male and his two female friends were followed by Tenorio from the former La Fiesta Mall area in San Roque to the parking lot of Marianas Trekking, where the assault happened.

The officer observed the victim suffering a 1-inch laceration in this nose. One female passenger of the car was crying for fear because Tenorio approached them.

The teenager told police that he was driving his car with two passengers heading to the Grotto when a white car, which was heading in the same direction, passed them out and cut in front of his vehicle at a close distance.

The female passenger got upset and flicked off Tenorio, who was the driver of the white car. The former lawmaker then followed them to the Marianas Trekking parking lot, where the alleged beating happened. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Fajardo resigns as LibDay float chief

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mariano Fajardo has stepped down from his duties with the 2016 CNMI Liberation Day Festival committee, citing personal and health reasons. He informed the committee anout his resignation during Tuesday's meeting held at the conference room inside the Saipan Mayor's Office.

"As much as I want to help, there are personal issues and priorities that I have to attend to. I have to take care of myself," Fajardo, who is the float and parade sub committee chair, told the committee led by Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang and overall chair Chris D. Leon Guerrero.

"I appreciate all the support the Liberation Day committee has given to me. If I'm around here on the island, I can still help in any way I can," added Fajardo, who was in charge of preparing the float parade's program for this year's July 4th Liberation Day festivities.

Apatang thanked Fajardo for the service and all help he has given as a longtime member of the Liberation Day committee.

"We understand that you have to take care of your situation. We greatly appreciate all the help that you've given to the committee. We thank you for your commitment to continue working if ever you are here. We are still looking forward to work with you again," said Apatang.

Fajardo said that although he has already resigned as float and parade chair, he is helping to look for his replacement. "I'm looking around to find someone who will take care of my responsibilities."

Tony Cabrera, Fajardo added, was willing to step in but is also busy with his work and other duties.

Fajardo, in his final day as a member of the Liberation Day committee, reported that right now construction companies are still busy using their lowboys for their respective projects. Lowboys are also used for floats. "Major companies are still busy using them for construction and transporting services."

He said he would inform the mayor's office and the committee if there would be any changes. Apatang added that they would also make some calls to inquire about the lowboys.

Rose Hocog, the CNMI Liberation Day Royal Court chair, reminded the committee that she would need at least three lowboys for the 39 candidates. "As much as possible we want the girls to be in one float for the parade to instill togetherness."

Large chunk of Saipan experience power interruption

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that an emergency power interruption affected some areas of the island yesterday afternoon March, 23, 2016.

The power interruption was due to electrical problems inside the cabinets of the generator breaker at the CUC powerplant. All repairs were completed and the power was fully restored at 2:17pm to the affected feeders.

Affected areas were Lower Base, Puerto Rico, Garapan, Chalan Laulau, San Jose, Capital Hill, Wireless, Mt. Tapochao, Talafofo, Denii, Agag, As Teo, Papago, Kagman, Kagman Homestead 1, 2, 3, and 4, Chalan Kanoa, Chalan Piao, Chalan Kiya, Oleai, and Susupe.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our facebook page for the latest updates (http://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/) ***(PR)***

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NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD MEETING

The regular meeting of the Zoning Board will be held
on Thursday, March 31, 2016
at 5:00 PM, Zoning Board Conference Room
2nd floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Bldg.
(Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 2/25/16 meeting minutes
5. Public Comments

B. Public Hearings. None

C. Communications

D. Old Business
1. Pending Legislative Action on Nuisance Abatement and Blighted Properties Maintenance Act of 2013
2. Status of Regulation for All Terrain Vehicles/ Utility Task Vehicles

E. New Business
1. Zoning Board membership vacancies
2. Administrator's presentation of the 2015 Annual Report
3. Office Operations Reports (Permit processing, Enforcement Actions)
4. Proposed relocation of the Zoning Office

F. Executive (Closed) Session

G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

IN CORRUPTION CASE AGAINST FORMER ROTA MAYOR, CO-DEFENDANTS

OAG moves for recusal of Judge Camacho

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General has filed a motion for the recusal of Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho from presiding over the corruption case filed against former Rota mayor Melchor A. Mendiola and four co-defendants.

Assistant attorney general Matthew C. Baisley said a reasonable person could conclude that Camacho is biased against the CNMI government in the case against Mendiola and co-defendants and/or has prejudged the merits of that matter.

Baisley said first, Camacho disclosed a conversation he had with an extrajudicial source (the judiciary's comptroller) regarding the judiciary's expenditure of $50,000 in preparation for the trial in the previous case involving the same defendants that was dismissed.

Second, the prosecutor said, after disclosing this conversation—which was external to any fact at issue in the previous case, and was had with direct reference to the previous case—the judge compared the $50,000 cost to the judiciary with the lesser value of the government property at issue in the previous case.

Baisley was referring to Camacho's statement that involved in this case were "four laptops with values ranging from $975 to $2,049, as well as nine picnic tables."

Baisley said at both the hearing and in his order, Camacho directly questioned the government regarding whether it "had considered pursuing a civil collection action against the defendants rather than a criminal prosecution."

Third, the prosecutor said, Camacho stated that "it is obvious to the court that this motion is a motion for leave to amend and a motion to continue disguised as a motion to dismiss."

Taken together, Baisley said, a reasonable person could view these comments as reflecting one or more of the positions that given the lesser value of the government property, a criminal prosecution is not "worth the cost"; that given the lesser value of the government property, civil sanctions, not criminal sanctions are appropriate; that the expense incurred by the judiciary in this case renders the government's prosecution unwarranted, ill-advised, and/or counterproductive; and that the government was disingenuous in its filings before the court.

Baisley said the government is obligated to ferret out public waste and corruption even where, as here, the amount in controversy was limited to approximately $6,000.

"Criminal prosecutions serve a deterrent effect, and help stem the tide of public waste which, taken in the aggregate, costs the Commonwealth far more than $50,000," he said.

The prosecutor said a reasonable outside observer might consider the judge's comments as evidence that the court has a preexisting and/or extrajudicial bias against the government in the pending case.

He said Camacho should "err on the side of caution" and recuse himself from the case so that it may be quickly and conveniently reassigned.

"Though the court undoubtedly did not intend to question the legitimacy of prosecuting cases involving thousands of dollars of government waste, a reasonable person could conclude that the court does not believe that this case should move forward," Baisley said.

In the interest of preserving the judiciary's impartiality, the prosecutor said, the government requests Camacho to recuse himself from the case.

The trial in the case is currently scheduled for Nov. 28, 2016.

Mendiola and co-defendants Alfred Apatang, Bernard Apatang, Tina Atalig, and Stacey Atalig are each charged with possession or removal of government property.

Office of Public Auditor Task Force officer JB K. Cepeda stated in his report that they initiated the investigation after receiving a letter from Rota Mayor Efrain M. Atalig, requesting assistance to investigate into Mendiola's questionable transactions.

Cepeda said Atalig apparently discovered government properties such as computer laptops, folding tables, typewriter, and other items were unaccounted for or missing.

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Tinian mayor working with DFEMS chief to address public misconduct

In response to allegations of a department-wide misconduct at the Tinian Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Tinian Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas has consulted and requested CNMI Fire Commissioner Clyde Norita to take the lead in conducting a thorough investigation at the Tinian DFEMS and to make recommendations accordingly.

"One way to address this situation transparently and fairly is to bring in a neutral, qualified individual to conduct the investigation and to make recommendations as to what our next necessary course of action should be with regards to these allegations," said San Nicolas.

Beginning Monday, March 27, the mayor, with the concurrence of Norita appointed Captain Jesse Mesa of Saipan DFEMS to be the acting deputy commissioner of the Tinian DFEMS. "Captain Mesa will be temporarily taking over the helm to ensure the continued delivery of services."

The mayor has also requested the assistance of Norita to conduct an internal affairs investigation and to make recommendations on any action that is necessary and required to restore the faith and confidence of the public in the Tinian DFEMS. Norita has appointed and assigned DFEMS Internal Affairs to conduct an internal review of what has transpired within the Tinian DFEMS.

"Like the mayor, we are very concerned with what has happened at our Tinian DFEMS. Our primary concern is to ensure the continued delivery of services to the public. The mayor and I both agree that at this point, given the department wide allegations, an independent thorough review of the department is necessary," said Norita. "I expect that adverse action will be taken against those who have taken part in violating the public's trust. I also expect that recommendations will be forthcoming to the mayor as to how to deal with scheduling of operations so that we minimize overtime."

"At the very least, I expect that all those who have received OT hours illegally, be required to return the funds back to the government," said San Nicolas. ***(PR)***

Demapan seeks to curb copper wire theft

In response to the rate of copper wire theft and recent strings of incidents involving stolen candleholders at many gravesites on the island, Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) will introduce the Scrap Metal Inspection Act of 2016 at next week's House session that aims to address such property theft crimes by amending Public aw 15-36.

Demapan believes that strengthening requirements pertaining to purchase transactions for scrap metal will help deter the sale of stolen goods.

"Additional regulation is necessary to provide for an added layer of scrutiny before copper wire and other high-value scrap metal can be sold to a recycler," said Demapan. "Therefore, I am proposing legislation that calls for mandatory inspection and certification of scrap metal property, with the exception of aluminum cans, prior to any purchase transaction at a recycling or scrap metal business."

The proposed legislation will require individuals who want to sell scrap metal to first have all their items inspected and certified by the Department of Public Works. Recyclers or scrap metal businesses will be barred from purchasing scrap metal if the seller does not submit a certificate of inspection.

"Upon completion of inspection, DPW will then issue a certificate of inspection, which the individual must provide to the recycling business before any transaction may be initiated and completed," added Demapan.

"Every item inspected will be thoroughly documented and recorded so that in any event where theft of property is reported, the DPS investigators can work with DPW to review the inventory of items that were inspected and identify who was responsible for bringing the items in for inspection."

Demapan's bill tasks DPW to promulgate rules and regulations to conduct inspections of scrap metal property. The legislation also provides for the sharing of information between DPW, DPS, and the Office of the Attorney General.

Through this legislation, Demapan aims to make it difficult for thieves to make money from stolen goods. Moreover, by thoroughly documenting the inspection of the items, the lawmaker added that investigators will have an additional resource to refer to when investigating related theft cases. ***(PR)***

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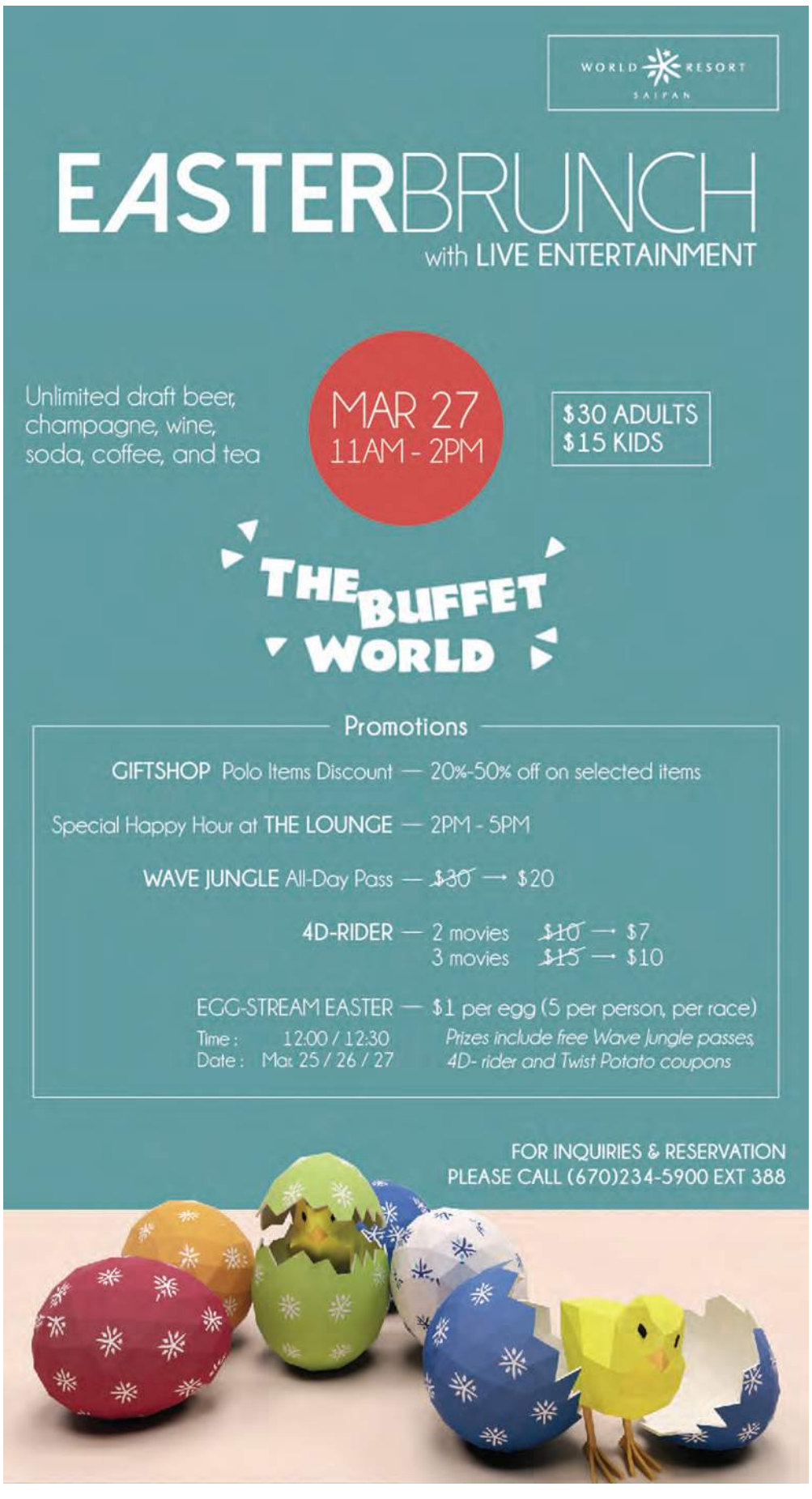
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Kagman scholars' essays to be published into book

The written essays of 21 Kagman High School students that are part of the school's Million Dollar Scholars Program will be published into a book with all the proceeds going to the fund that would help them achieve their goal of getting a college education.

The book—*Reflections of Scholarship and Survival*—is a collection of the students' college essays where they wrote about the everyday challenges they faced and the stories of survival during Typhoon Soudelor's onslaught on Saipan.

KHS teacher Gerard van Gils said they are looking for partners in the public and private sector that would help their program. He added that half of KHS' student population lives below the poverty line including 19 of the 21 students in their program.

Corporate sponsors can help either by helping them publish the book or by donating directly to their program.

"By simply buying the book, you have already helped a student from the CNMI go to college. For that, we will thank you for being a community partner," said van Gils, who is also the adviser of KHS' Interact Club.

van Gils said their fundraising is for the initial expenses that each student needs when going to college like plane tickets, application fees, climate-appropriate clothes, suitcases, books, and room and board once accepted to college.

van Gils said students can get scholarships, grants, and other student loans but the said funding sources don't get processed after they begin school.

The Million Dollar Scholars program is a brainchild of KHS staff led by principal Leila Staffler, who saw the need of creating a solution to help their top students get the chance to get a college education. The program also acts as a support group.

Peter Santos, Ana Lieto, Rayannna Aldan, Viron Tenorio, Elizabeth Basa, Nimei George, Sara Kapileo, Fatimah Blake, Cassey Babauta, Jesus Pua, Coreen Ramon, Mikeala San Nicolas, Karen Laoyan, Jessa Camacho, Foysal Sojib, Asako Camacho, Lilly Jean Bautista, Jerry Borja, Josepha Cabrera, and Allison Arellano are members of KHS' Million Dollar Scholars program.

Donations can be given at the KHS office or through their GoFundMe account. Airline miles or plane tickets are also accepted. ***(Jon Perez)***

Habitual offender arrested again, this time for 'ice'

A habitual offender was arrested for alleged possession of methamphetamine or "ice" when he and a woman were found sleeping inside a car parked on the roadway in Chinatown on Monday midnight.

George Taitano Manglona, 34, was arrested for illegal possession of controlled substance.

At a bail hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio noted that Manglona has several prior criminal convictions, including involuntary manslaughter, and traffic cases.

Kim-Tenorio increased the bail to $20,000 cash from the original bail of $5,000 cash.

Preliminary hearing will be on April 4 at 9am.

Chief public defender Douglas Hartig was appointed as counsel for Manglona. Acting chief prosecutor Barbara Cepeda appeared for the government.

Drug Enforcement Task Force officer Nicholas A. Rabauliman stated in his report that a police officer was dispatched on Monday at 12:11am to Chinatown about a car that was parked on the roadway with its headlights still on for about 30 minutes.

At 12:45am, the responding officer spotted a silver sedan parked in the west-bound lane near a sharp curve area. The officer noticed that the car's engine was still running.

The officer flashed his light inside the car and saw Manglona sleeping on the driver's seat and a woman on the right side passenger seat.

The officer walked over to the left side driver's door to open it and felt hot air coming from inside the car's vents. The officer turned off the car's engine, woke up Manglona and asked why he was sleeping on the road.

When the officer asked for his driver's license and vehicle registration, Manglona presented the registration and woke up the woman.

Manglona asked the woman for his bag. The woman answered that the bag was in the back seat.

Manglona took a wallet from a backpack and when he unzipped it, the officer noticed a Ziploc bag containing a crystal like substance.

The bag was seized and another police officer later tested the substance presumptive positive with methamphetamine.

Manglona was then arrested. *Saipan Tribune* opted to withhold the name of the woman as it was not clear whether she was arrested. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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invites qualified U.S. worker candidates to apply for the following positions:

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Bachelor's Degree in Accounting with at least three (3) years work experience in general and financial accounting, preferably in tour operation, sales or service based work environment. Must be proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software. Previous experience with HR Information and/or Enterprise Resource Planning Systems is an advantage.

Accounting Manager (1)
College degree in finance, accounting, economics, or business administration and five (5) years of progressive financial management experience. Minimum of three (3) years experience in directing the preparation of financial reports and implementing cash management activities. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) system and Microsoft software.

Customer Service Agent (6)
High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with at least two (2) months work experience in travel/tour operation or sales or service based work environment, room reservations and vendor relations. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office applications (Excel, MS Word, Outlook, Power Point). Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English, Korean, Japanese, or Chinese languages. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Able to drive tourists safely through various tour routes.

Customer Service Agent (6 Part-Time)
High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with at least two (2) months work experience in travel/tour operation or sales or service based work environment, room reservations and vendor relations. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office applications (Excel, MS Word, Outlook, Power Point). Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English, Korean, Japanese, or Chinese languages. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Able to drive tourists safely through various tour routes.

Customer Service Supervisor, Retail (2)
High School Diploma, GED or equivalent. At least one (1) to two (2) years of related supervisory experience in a luxury retail environment. Must have the knowledge and computer skills to handle the POS register and other operations and communication systems.

Operations Manager (1)
College or Associate's degree in Management, Travel and Tour or any related field. At least three (3) years of progressive management experience in tour and travel operations is required. Written and verbal communications skills in English and Chinese (Mandarin) preferred, must be able to communicate with Chinese vendors and suppliers. Must be willing to work evenings, holidays, and weekends.

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High School Diploma, GED or equivalent. Prior experience in luxury retail sales is preferred including the ability to read, speak and understand English and Chinese (Mandarin). Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards with or without using a trolley. Must be familiar with the Point-Of-Sales (POS) System. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends.

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High School Diploma, GED or equivalent. Prior experience in luxury retail sales is preferred including the ability to read, speak and understand English and Chinese (Mandarin). Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards with or without using a trolley. Must be familiar with the Point-Of-Sales (POS) System.

Tour Sales Representative (18)
High School Diploma, GED or equivalent. A minimum of six (6) months to one (1) year experience in a related field. Work experience with travel and tour operation is an advantage. Able to drive tourists safely through various tour routes. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English, Russian, Korean, or Chinese languages.

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Job Vacancy Announcement

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

Classification: Hourly, may lead to a salaried staff position.

Wage Range: $10.50 to $12.00 per hour, depending on qualifications and experience.

Reports to: General Manager

JOB DESCRIPTION
Summary/Objective: The human resource manager is directly responsible for the overall administration, coordination and evaluation of the human resource function.

Essential Functions: Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

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2. Plans, organizes and controls all activities of the department. Participates in developing department goals, objectives and systems.
3. Helps GM develop, recommend and implement personnel policies and procedures; prepares and maintains handbook on policies and procedures; performs benefits administration to include claims resolution, change reporting, approving invoices for payment, annual re-evaluation of policies for cost-effectiveness, information activities program and cash flow.
4. Develops and maintains affirmative action program; files EEO-1 annually; maintains other records, reports and logs to conform to EEO regulations.
5. Conducts recruitment effort for all exempt and nonexempt personnel, students and temporary employees; conducts new-employee orientations; monitors career-pathing program, employee relations counseling, outplacement counseling and exit interviewing; writes and places advertisements.
6. Establishes and maintains department records and reports. Participates in administrative staff meetings and attends other meetings, such as seminars. Maintains company organization charts and employee directory.
7. Evaluates reports, decisions and results of department in relation to established goals. Recommends new approaches, policies and procedures to effect continual improvements in efficiency of department and services performed.
8. Performs other incidental and related duties as required and assigned.
9. Processes paperwork necessary for Contract Worker (CW) visa renewals, transfers, and new hires.
10. Maintains all records and generates reports required for USCIS and other agencies.
11. Manages the employee requests for HRP 401K program loans and other matters concerning the program.

Competencies:

1. Human Resources Capacity
2. Ethical Conduct
3. Strategic Thinking.
4. Leadership.
5. Decision Making.
6. Financial Management.

Work Environment: This job operates in a professional office environment. This role routinely uses standard office equipment such as computers, phones, photocopiers, filing cabinets and fax machines.

Physical Demands: The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. While performing the duties of this job, the employee is occasionally required to stand; walk; sit; use hands to finger, handle, or feel objects, tools or controls; reach with hands and arms; climb stairs; balance; stoop, kneel, crouch or crawl; talk or hear; and taste or smell. The employee must occasionally lift or move up to 25 pounds. Specific vision abilities required by the job include close vision, distance vision, color vision, peripheral vision, depth perception and the ability to adjust focus.

Position Type/Expected Hours of Work: This is a full-time position. Days and hours of work are Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. This position regularly requires long hours and sometimes weekend work.

Required Education and Experience: A bachelor's degree and three years of human resource experience, or nine years' experience in the HR field.

Preferred Additional Eligibility Qualification: SHRM Senior Certified Professional (SHRM-SCP) certification (preferred)

Other Duties: Work with accountant and office personnel to support needs of employees and management staff.

Send Resume: David L. Bush, General Manager, Hawaiian Rock Products,
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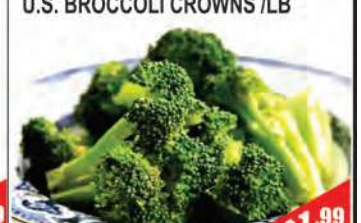

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EDITORIAL

Hard work ahead following historic trip

"Our leader has taken leave of reality," said an incredulous White House official. "He thinks this is the moment to establish normal relations."

No, not a reference to President Barack Obama and Cuba. This was Henry Kissinger describing Richard Nixon and Communist China. Nixon shocked America when he went to China in 1972, opening the door to a complex relationship. Five decades later, we're still wrestling with China's identity—how much a partner, how much a foe but nobody would slam the door now. The world's a safer, more prosperous place with China in it, not exiled from it.

So let's be patient on how quickly change will come to Cuba: Drawing out a reluctant adversary takes time. After a 50-year standoff rooted in the Cold War, the U.S. and Cuba have restored diplomatic relations. As Obama concludes his historic three-day visit to the island on Tuesday, the two sides move on to the tricky, long-term business of daily engagement.

With the Obama trip comes a significant loosening of restrictions on travel and other forms of contact. Airlines propose regular service. American tourists will visit. U.S.-owned hotels will open. Google has a deal to expand Internet service. In these and many other ways, America stands to influence Cuba's future. This is big progress.

The next important step will be lifting the U.S. economic embargo put in place after Fidel Castro seized power in 1959. That requires patience, too. Scrapping the embargo takes an act of Congress, which will not happen in a presidential election year. There are other significant hurdles, including resolving the future of America's Guantanamo Bay Naval Base.

America's struggle with Cuba is over its repressive government. The struggle is over history, too. Communist Cuba is disinterested in democracy and disdainful of personal freedom. The Cuban people, needlessly impoverished, suffer. Control is in the hands of Fidel's younger brother, Raul (a spry 84 to Fidel's ailing 89).

The debate about what to do with Cuba has been difficult to accept for many Americans, especially Cuban-Americans: After all these years of hanging tough the U.S. is ready to acknowledge the Cuban government and encourage Americans to invest and spend on the island.

What we know is that the long diplomatic standoff with and embargo of Cuba became pointless long ago. Lecturing Cuba from afar about its human rights violations isn't especially effective. Family members have been cut off from each other, and the U.S. has stood on the sidelines as Cuba under Raul Castro has tinkered with economic reforms. Other countries have jumped in, leaving the U.S. to watch and wait.

Cuba's leadership is on the cusp of a generational change, which may provide an opening for Cubans to take the next step toward freedom. In the meantime: Should the U.S. continue to isolate? No. Should it engage? Yes.

This is not a new debate. In late 2000, the U.S. chose to engage with Vietnam, ending another long standoff with a former foe that had been invaded by the U.S. Vietnam is still communist today, but also a valuable trading partner that

See HARD on Page 11

The Last Supper

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

It is one of the most revered images of Christendom, Leonardo da Vinci 15th century mural painting of the Last Supper in the Upper Room, as is now commonly called. The event itself recalls the institution of the Eucharist, now the central symbol of one's partaking of the vision and mission of Jesus mythologized to be the Christ, in the "theos" metaphor of Rome, the son of the living God!

"Experience the power of God" is the calling card of evangelical groups, focusing on "power" over curses and sickness, of salvation and blessing. To understand this stance, we revisit two phrases separating the Catholic and Reformation communities in its relationship to power. The first is the "infallibility of the Pope" that use the Episcopal Office as the source of defining faith and religion; the second is called the "inerrancy of Scriptures" interpreted by groups and bodies that sometimes deteriorates into a book idolatry, affectionately called Biblical faith.

Both cases define the ultimate source of authority for the facticity of power.

In the '60s, existential methods revealed the illusion on both the fantasy on the papacy, and disastrous Bible idolatry; laser beamed on the whole point of religious metaphors as pointing to being saved from "illusions." Christians discovered what it meant to witness to the truth. What was real was the authority of authenticity, the new language of profound humanity.

Imagine yourself in the desert. Seeing a "mirage," engendering a dependency on the illusion that one sees, from which one has to be saved. Every human needed to be "saved" from the propensity to take illusions seriously. The Christ-word shatters such illusions so one can really face the authority of authenticity rather than fall into the widespread Jesus idolatry.

I hold no beef on those who still use the metaphors of "power" and genuflect before its symbols. After all, societies still operate out of social stratification, and anyone who is a "manager" of something is raised up and revered. Why else do we want to frame those certificates of recognition but to polish our egos, and enhance our social power? Why else do Mamas parade the #1 rating that their child got as a sign of superior accomplishment and qualifies one to leave one's footprints in the eternal sand of time? OK. We will skip the poetry.

In the Upper Room, as the Protestant loves to call it, was the institution of the Eucharist, not a hocus-pocus power of the elements, of ostia con vino, but on the giving; not power over but surrender of one's self totally and unconditionally for the sake of the other. "This is my body that is given for you." What in that simple sentence is it hard to understand? We try very hard to scour the bottom of hidden meanings. How about taking it as an ordinary discourse?

There is a subterfuge in the story. The Judas betrayal underscores the individual and personal nature of the offense, for the price of "thirty pieces of silver," exonerating the Roman authorities and the Jewish synagogue from direct complicity in a crime; it is not too difficult to see Judas as the escape goat, also to not let us forget of the paradigm of evil in every worthwhile endeavor lurking in the persona of someone who even gets to buzz the victim on the cheek. There will always be, we say, a turncoat who will mistake self-interest as separate from and in conflict with the corporate good.

This is not foreign to our current ethos. Not too long ago, it was looking after #1 that graced the halls of Yale, Harvard, and Princeton. But we do not need to go that far. On each of the tellers at Oleai FHB is the sign: "Giving is good. Saving is better." That may be great for the savings account, but the truth about life is that, being focused solely on one's self is a limited context to focusing on the "we" of our relationship to others, the planet, and the universe. Savings is good for the financial bottom line, but giving, the emptying of one's self, is so much better. That's just the way life is.

"The Way Life Is," is the literal translation of the Tetragrammatons' word in the Jewish theonym, the YHWH of North-Africa-and-the-Middle-East (NAME) that Judah and Israel appropriated, having lived through the exodus out of the Pharaoh's Sun God into Sinai wandering in the wilderness, and Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonian captivity that saw the destruction of the Temple of Jerusalem; the Jews found solace in Cyrus the Great (from Kuros, the Sun) of Persia who sent the captives home, tolerating their religion.

The worship of the Sun or anything transcendent is not the object of the Last Supper. Rather, it is the total giving of one's self for the sake of another that was crucified the following day. "This is my body, that is given, ... this is my blood, that is poured, for you." Those who embody this understanding will be crucified. But death shall have no dominion. On Sun Day morning, the sun rises on an empty tomb. Quite a story; quite a Supper!

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Semana Santan Mañgalisyanu

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune*.*

Deste Dameñgon Patma matutuhon i Semana Santa ni umahnanau esta i Pasguan Resureksion `nai kahulu` i Sainata gi mina` tres dias.

Patte este gi kutturan relihion natibu deste kiñientos años tatte. Finana`guen Katolisismu entalu` relihiosu yan mañainata mina` fitme este giya hita mismu.

Hana`e hit tiempu para ta rinueba haf` hineñgeta gi tinagu` Sainata. Ha inklusu inasi`i gi prohimuta, yinea`se, hinimidde, yan respetu. Estague` na ineyag muna` pas yan fitme relasion entalu` familia yan membron komunida.

Magahet na ti sumehayu` man-ayuda gi otru gi presisu na nesessidat piot gi ti muna` sisiña. Man-ñge` yan sumen satisfichosu i un` lagnos kanaimu gi un` kilisyanu ni numesessita abiu ayudu. Esta mauleg maigo`hu kada biahe `nai hu ekstende kanaihu.

Dottrinan famaguon sumen presisu kontodu dinaña` familia gi misan Dameñgo. Ha esgaihon halom mañan famaguonta kabales na rinipara yan eksisiun yine`ase` gi prohimun niha.

Huñgan pot i Sainata i Pasguan Resureksion. Gi mismu tiempu sessu hu konsidera i nanata as Santa Maria mamaisa gi todu mattiru kulan kinilu `nai makastitiga i lahiña. Magahet na Nanan Minesñgon yan Hinimidde para todu i mattrata ni hasuñgun gi todu pasun i lahiña, i Sainata.

Puede felis finatton Pasgua Resureksion para todus. Si Yuus Maase`!

Bisnis Familia Mas Seguru

I ekonomian isla mampos dikiki`. Tai mina, i guinahan tasi ti siña ta adelanta sa` mantai trastes hit para este na offisiu, lau tat tisiña tachogue para ta assisten maisa hit.

Gi todu finattu yan hinanau ira yan tinilaika todu i tiempu hita ha` mansopbla gi santatte. Hafa i guaha ta asegura na manmaayuda lokue` i mamopble yan man-namase` siha na tautau-ta. Ma`ug na sensian tautau isla!

Pues debi ta faisen maisa hit kabales haf` siña tachogue para ta ayudan maisa hit? Inestablesen dikiki` na bisnis familia kase i mas inus yan libianu na karera para mona.

Iya Japon manadan bisnis mandikiki` ni tinituhon dos saina ni manmana`e dispues famaguon niha. Siha dispues chumahlau ya sige mona. Esta pa`gu mangaige ha` gi mismu lugat deste finagpu` geran dos.

■■■

Guaha un` tihahu umusune yan asaguaña hina`men sensin pechun guaka. Teñga mafahan un` kes, ha difros, sasa, asne ya ha pega gi un` banda tunanoche esta`i sigiente dia.

Ha kana` pa`gu gi hilu` guafe ya ha ha`me. Kuatru oras dispues hana tunog, pika, balutan ya ha pega gi dos tenda gi halom soñgsoñg. Uttimoña tiha huhulat inenkatgan tenda `nai masiente na guaha ayu na pairen hina`men katnen pechu. Diberas na fahnan benta!

Hombre, maseha haye na tautau siempre u fan espiha na`ña. Gigon hasiente na guaha paire na hina`men katne ni siña hana` ginachuñge saibog choda pat sune `sino titiyas mai`es, siempre u aligau sinparat. Puntu: dos amku` ti magpu` animun niha sumoda` ginefsagan niha maseha atbansau idat niha.

Ayu `nai pumara `nai ni unu gi dos esta siña muñgayu para guafen man-ha`me mañge` na sensin pechu ni dinaña`e mantika gi entalu`. Kontodu hina`men guihan paire na totche yan titiyas mai`es. Puntu: Todu gumuaiya ayu na hina`men katne (smoked beef brisket) ya soluke maproduse ayu ha` `nai siña ma-abona.

Balan Destrosu: Dos na nuclear bomb in`fatachuchuñge pa`gu bidan niniha i man-ma`gas para uma-adelanta kinalamten i tanu`? Gi kada sakan na diskuidun niha, tres años tatte maluñu` linala` i tautau siha. Ileghu na ti mapot este makomprende lau inipos na diskuidu!

Gi halom este na rimulinu, mauleg lokue` ta komprende na sisteman demokrasia na gobietnamentu tinaka` tiempu estake siña mas fitme areglu siha gi proteksion interes publiku.

Ti namanman lokue` i tinilaikan modun mañan manmaelihe deste 1979. Guaha lumañgag bumende integredat niha pot para umana fan pagamientu ni manriku na bisnis ginen hiyuñg. Estague` masusesede esta pa`gu. Siempre hita gi Nobiembre para ta disidi haf` futtunan niha `nai mahasñgun mayute` i tautua kulan basula.

Baihu saunau manmueba nu este sa` mattu gi ti kombene na modun politika `nai ensegidas mayotten ñaihon interesta ni publiku ya ma-attende i riku na atuñgu` niha. Debi tafunas este gi Nobiembre pot futtunan famaguonta. Gaige i asuntu gi dos patman kanaita.

HARD

From Page 10

serves U.S. interests as a strategic foil to rising China. Vietnam signed on last year to the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a free-trade agreement between the U.S. and 11 Pacific nations that includes worker protections. We won't predict Vietnam's future behavior, but 15 years after Bill Clinton made history with the first postwar visit of an American president to Hanoi, the decision to reengage has paid off for both sides.

We hope for a similar outcome in the wake of Obama's visit to Cuba: not a sea change overnight, but progress influencing and prodding a musty, insular regime whose power and competence faded a long time ago.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Special elections: A problem or answer

So, is there a need for a special election or is the Attorney General's opinion the final word without tweaking due process? Whoa, kinda like the AG is now the judge, the jury and executioner.

Anyway, the questions raised were not meant to be malicious in anyway but to clarify the Article accession process defined in our Constitution, and conclude once and for all, the validity of their actions in assuming the offices of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor. There is a pressing need to remove all doubts with regards to the events, and either hold a special election or declare that Ralph DLG Torres and Victor Hocog are the bona fide governor and lieutenant governor. There's a problem with that.

The CNMI Constitution can be confusing to many citizens as evidenced by the differences of opinions in and out of the news, thus the popular request for a definitive answer from the COURT, not from the AG. The AG's opinion is not a law. So is an analysis of the Constitution. It's just an analysis. Persuasive, but they are only references.

So, for all the members of the 19th CNMI Legislature, we're still waiting for that certified legal question to be filed in court. Any taker? Or would it be a political suicide, or a political strategy, most specifically for the upcoming election? We do understand that this being an election year, issues and problems may seem miniscule and unimportant but still, we need to know and we certainly are way that a precedent is being set now, one that begs the question of legality. Let's hope this is not the case, but, again, we are in a representative democracy where accountability is of the utmost importance. Should this issue never be laid to rest, there will always be finger-pointing at what can possibly be seen as a concerted attempt by the parties involved to legitimize an illegal act by circumventing the law.

We should not even be asking whether or not there is going to be a special election. The law on gubernatorial succession exists and it calls for the election mechanism to start rolling the day Inos's death was announced locally. Theoretically, there are two persuasive guiding procedures to follow. One—when the absence of the governor is temporary. The other—when the governor is permanently gone. In the event that the governor is temporarily absent from the Commonwealth, the lieutenant governor becomes the acting governor the moment the governor leaves the Commonwealth. That leaves the Office of the Lieutenant Governor vacant for the duration. The Senate president, then, can just lean over and assume that vacant office, as Senate president still, without the need for an appointment by the acting governor or resignation from the Senate. This, then, is the instance when the Senate president holds two jobs, straddling the fence as permitted by the Constitution. The Senate president does not have to quit the Senate.

Two—when the absence of the governor is permanent for whatever reason-impeachment, resignation, refusal to continue serving as governor, death, etc. In this second instance, the permanent absence calls for a different consideration. The lieutenant Governor becomes the acting governor, thus vacating the Lt. Governor's Office. It becomes incumbent upon the acting governor, then, to appoint an acting lieutenant governor. The Senate president does not come in to the picture, in this situation, unless appointed by the acting governor. When appointed, the Senate president resigns from his senatorial position to accept the appointment and to move into the acting Lt. Governor's Office. The acting governor could appoint someone else. The CNMI Legislature is, then, notified that an appointment has been made. he Legislature, then, meet in a convention-like session to vote for acceptance of the appointee. If accepted, then the special election goes into full swing. If not accepted, the acting governor comes back with a different appointee until an appointee is accepted by the Legislature, starting the special election mechanism. The CNMI Constitution can be confusing as evidenced by the differences of opinions and analyses in and out of the news media, thus the popular request for a definitive answer from the court, not the AG. Doing nothing and hoping for the best will only result in more questions and perhaps give substance to the accusation of a conspiracy to maintain the status quo. Is anyone unsure whether to "cross the Rubicon" or not? So for the 19th Legislature, we're still waiting for that certified legal question. We understand that this being an election year, issues and problems may seem miniscule and unimportant but still, we need to know and we certainly are wary that a PRECEDENT is being set now, one that begs the question of legality. Let's hope that this is not the case but again, we are in a representative democracy where accountability is of the utmost importance. Should this issue never be laid to rest, there will always be finger-pointing at what can possibly be seen as a concerted attempt by the parties involved to legitimize an illegal act by circumvention of the law.

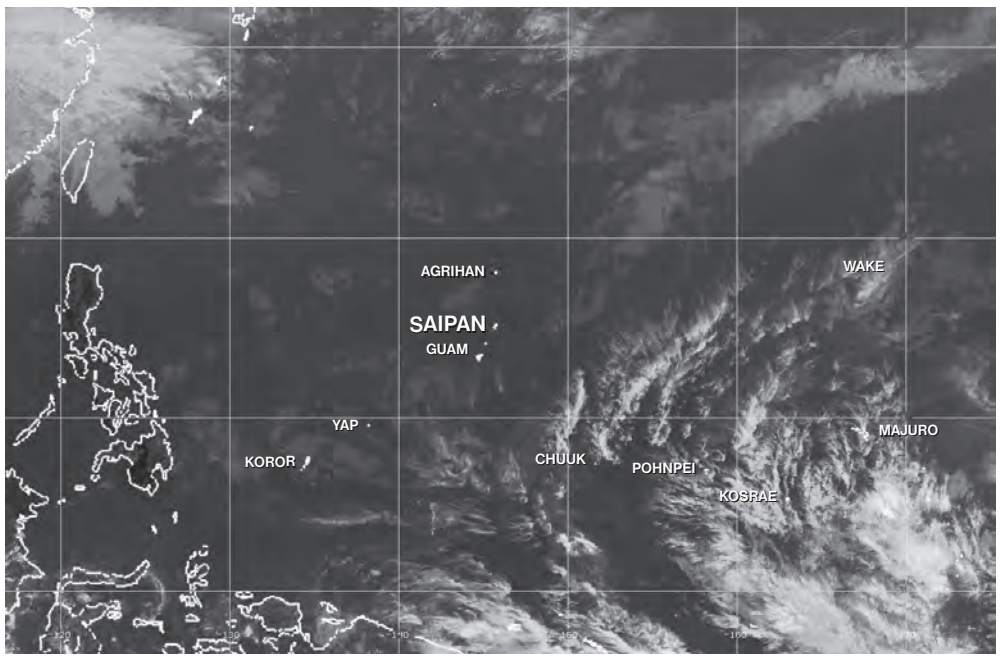
Rudy M. Sablan
Garapan

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly sunny with a slight chance of light showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated light showers.
▲87º ▼75º	▲87º ▼75º	▲87º ▼75º	▲87º ▼75º	▲86º ▼75º

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 PM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Low pressure far northeast of the Marianas is centered near 24N151E. Cloudiness and patchy rain along with a few thunderstorms are along and up to 200 miles northwest of a line from 25N162E to 23N157E to 18N152E. A surface trough southeast of Wake Island is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms between 19N and 16N from 168E to 176E. Widely scattered trade-wind showers near Koror are between 9N and 6N from 134E to 138E. A surface trough just west of Chuuk is producing widely scattered showers within 100 miles of a line from 9N148E to EQ151E. A disturbance along the equator south of Majuro is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms in patchy areas from just southeast of Pohnpei across Kosrae and the southern Marshall Islands to Tarawa or mainly south of 7N from 160E to 180.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼77
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼76
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼78
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼80
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼79
Kosrae	Showers	▲84	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼81

Around the Globe

Auckland	Thunderstorms	▲76	▼63
Beijing	Sunny	▲60	▼32
Hong Kong	Rain	▲62	▼52
Honolulu	Thundershowers	▲80	▼68
London	Cloudy	▲53	▼46
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲77	▼52
Manila	Sunny	▲96	▼76
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲74	▼58
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼72
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼47
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲53	▼38
Paris	Cloudy	▲53	▼47
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲53	▼38
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼44
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲59	▼45
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼52
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲55	▼32
Tokyo	Showers	▲47	▼39
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼53

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:25 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
9:19 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
3:46 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
9:34 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:18 AM	6:28 PM
Friday	6:18 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:17 AM	6:29 PM
Sunday	6:16 AM	6:29 PM
Monday	6:15 AM	6:29 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:06 PM	6:38 AM
Friday	7:53 PM	7:16 AM
Saturday	8:40 PM	7:55 AM
Sunday	9:28 PM	8:35 AM
Monday	10:16 PM	9:17 AM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 1, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	Daily via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/193	8:40am	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR
UA2928/183	6:05pm	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2928/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2928/193	6:05pm	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2926/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM
UA2926/191	9:50pm	9:00am+1	3, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2927	10:00am	5:35pm	3 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/2925	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA192/2920	10:20pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA192/2927	10:20pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA192/2929	10:20pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

MCS opens new campus chapel

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Diocese of Chalan Kanoa Apostolic Administrator Fr. Ryan Jimenez, left, and Mount Carmel School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero officially open the new Mount Carmel School Chapel with a ribbon cutting.

Fr. Ryan Jimenez, Apostolic Administrator for the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, leads the school community in an opening prayer before blessing the new Mount Carmel School Chapel.

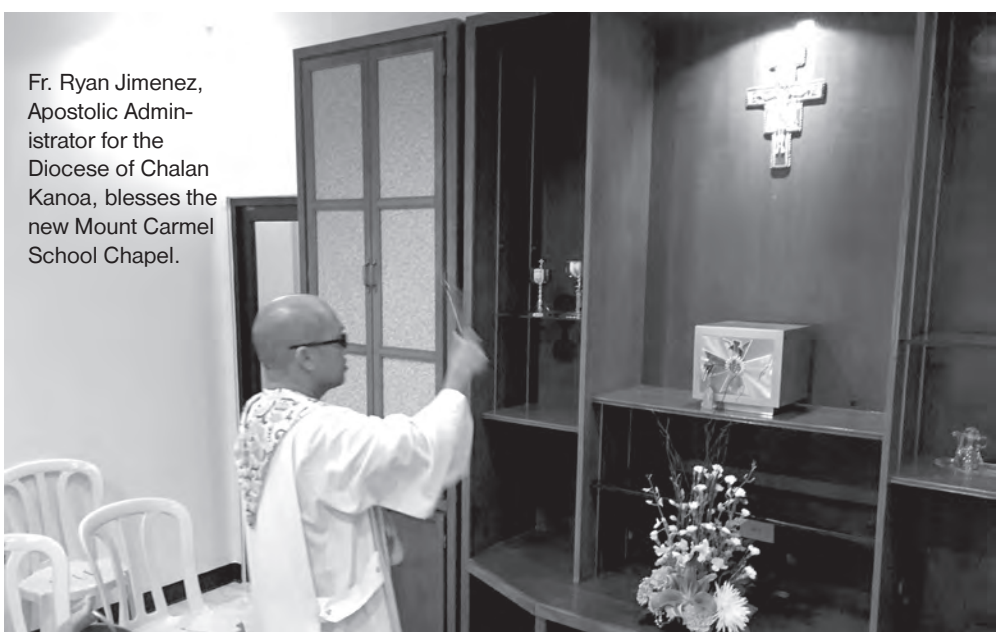
After almost two years of development, Mount Carmel School opened a new campus chapel this week, which was highlighted by a special blessing led by Fr. Ryan Jimenez, the Apostolic Administrator for the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa. The opening and blessing were scheduled to coincide with the Catholic church's annual observance of Holy Week.

In this prayer and blessing, Fr. Ryan said, "It is very fitting that we open and bless this chapel as we prepare for the Easter Tridiuum," referring to the Mass of the Lord's Supper, Good Friday of the Lord's Passion, and the Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord. After blessing the chapel, Fr. Ryan added, "This is a very nice chapel, one that can even be used for class masses."

School president, Galvin Deleon Guerrero, agreed with Fr. Ryan. He said, "Now our students, faculty, staff, and even parents have a quiet and safe place to go to pray and be with the Lord." Deleon Guerrero added, "While we have always appreciated the opportunity to pray in the Cathedral's facilities, having this chapel on campus is a special way to uphold our Catholic identity."

The MCS chapel was funded primarily by campus ministry efforts, both through collections at school masses and a Pray-a-Thon that was held in October last year. The Pray-a-Thon raised over $3,000, which was led by 2nd grade students, who raised over a $1,000 by themselves. Deleon Guerrero's family also contributed by purchasing the chapel's altar at an auction held a couple of years ago in honor of the school's chaplain, Fr. Rey Rosal.

Open during school hours, the chapel is located in the former office of the school president, adjacent to the school's business office. ***(PR)***



Fr. Ryan Jimenez, Apostolic Administrator for the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, blesses the new Mount Carmel School Chapel.

Diocese of Chalan Kanoa Apostolic Administrator Fr. Ryan Jimenez, left, talks with Journalism student Tanisha Bachani about the new Mount Carmel School Chapel.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happiest of birthdays to Michael H. San Nicolas. Greetings from your wife and children.

CUC Customer Care Center to open this Saturday

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Customer Care Center will open for payment and token purchases this Saturday only, March 26, 2016, from 8am to 12pm, due to the holidays this week.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our facebook page for the latest updates (http://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Statewide Independent Living Council
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TTY: (670) 322-6449 • E-Mail: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2016 Second General Membership Meeting on Thursday, March 31, 2016 at the JC Cafe in Tinian from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda: March 31, 2016
IV. Review and Adoption of Meeting Minutes: December 17, 2015
V. Reports
a. Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) Chairperson
b. Center for Living Independently (CLI) Executive Director
c. Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) Director
VI. Old Business
a. Needs Assessment for the State Plan for Independent Living 2017-2019
b. Update on SILC Activities
c. Update on Designated State Entity (DSE)
VII. New Business
a. SILC Contribution to Autism Awareness Month
b. 2016 National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) Conference
c. Request for Proposal (RFP) for Independent Living Services
d. Independent Living Older Blind (ILOB) Program
e. Employer Membership
VIII. Consumer Forum
IX. Announcement/Miscellaneous
X. Next Meeting
XI. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodation such as large print or sign language interpreter are asked to call Ms. Elvira Seman (OVR Administrative Assistant) at 322-6537/38 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY) five days before the meeting for necessary arrangements.

/s/ **Emeterio Fitial**
SILC Chairperson

Publication of this notice is paid for by Federal funds made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living (ACL)

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RCA Universal 3 Device Control $6.95

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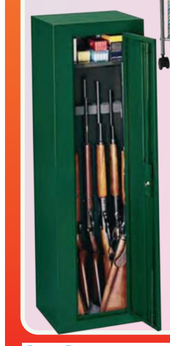

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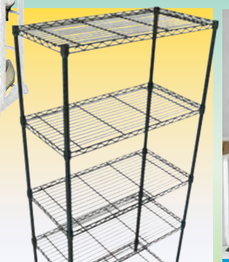
ESSENTIAL HOME 30 PAIR SHOE RACK $14.95



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Clearwater Splash Time 60" Wading Pool $17.95

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Ray Padula Eco Spray Triple Pack $10.95

Huffy 12" Star Wars Bike $107.95

Ardsley 3 Piece Bath Space Saver Set $35.95

Metal Rake with Wooden Handle $3.95

Craftsman 13" Tool Bag $6.95

Cowboy All Natural Hardwood Briquets 18lb. Charcoal $14.95

Z-Shade Prestige 14'X10' Instant Canopy $179.95

$1,595.95 Honda 6,000 Watt Generator

Water Cooled 14KVA Diesel Generator $4,595.95

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MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Bordallo addresses Guam issues at subcommittee hearings

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo addressed issues important to Guam during hearings of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs and the Subcommittee on Water, Power, and Oceans. The hearings focused on the President's fiscal year 2017 budget for agencies within the U.S. Department of the Interior.

During the hearing of the Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs, Bordallo expressed her desire for the Office of Insular Affairs to continue to prioritize Compact impact. She highlighted H.R. 4370, the Compact Impact Relief Act, which she introduced in January to address key areas in health care, education, and housing that are impacted by Compact impact. She also urged the Administration to work cooperatively with Congress to renew the Palau Compact and to identify an offset that reflected a shared responsibility among the Departments of State, Defense, and the Interior.

Additionally, Bordallo discussed the importance of combating invasive species and putting more resources towards preventative sciences. She highlighted the damage invasive species, like coconut rhinoceros beetle, have had on Guam's ecosystem and noted that they have spread to other Pacific jurisdictions, including Hawaii.

Bordallo

"I appreciate that the Obama Administration has prioritized efforts to address Compact impact, invasive species, and coral conservation in its FY17 OIA budget request. These policy areas have significant implications on Guam and our community, and we should provide resources towards solving these challenges. I continue to advocate for additional funding for Compact impact, but we have to recognize that fiscal conservatives will not support a direct appropriation for Guam, Hawaii, and the other affected jurisdictions. Leaders must find innovative solutions, like I have done with the Compact Impact Relief Act, that will reduce the burden on local governments and provide accountability by the federal government for these costs. I appreciate that Secretary Kia'aina committed to continue working with me and my colleagues in Congress to address this important issue."

"I am also concerned by the spread of invasive species in Guam and other Pacific island jurisdictions. Invasive species cause significant harm to island habitats and ecosystems, which are critical to Guam's tourism economy and are a foundation for many Pacific island cultures and subsistence. I appreciate that OIA requests funding to combat the spread of invasive species on non-federal lands. A more comprehensive approach to combating invasive species as well as funding for better research is absolutely needed to address this issue. I hope that OIA will work collaboratively with other agencies and community partners to dedicate additional resources for preventative sciences. I believe that over the long-term, this would help keep invasive species at bay before they become a significant problem, which ultimately will save taxpayer money. While we must continue to work to stop the spread of invasive species, we must also ensure that we are investing in preventing new threats to our islands." ***(PR)***

Local non-profit engaging Hawaii youth to vote

KAPOLEI, Hawaii—The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement is encouraging youth serving organizations to participate in its 16 for 2016 youth voter initiative. Last year, CNHA launched the 16 for 2016 Initiative, focused specifically on youth civic engagement and voter registration targeting 16-24 year olds. Launched by students from Kapolei High School at the 14th Annual Native Hawaiian Convention, the goal of the initiative is to develop partnerships with local high schools, college campuses and youth serving organizations to increase voter turnout among young adults in 2016. Additionally, the initiative aims to continue on-going outreach to students who are eligible by Hawaii state law to register to vote at the age of sixteen.

The State of Hawaii has one of the lowest voter turnout rates in the country based on its voting age population and the number of citizens registered to vote. Among Native Hawaiians, general disengagement by our communities results in even lower rates than the general populace. In 2004, CNHA started its work around voter awareness that later grew into voter registration efforts. In 2014, CNHA joined forces with No Vote No Grumble and adopted a program priority to increase participation by community-based organizations (CBOs) to support a statewide field plan around civic engagement that includes voter registration, GOTV efforts, voter education, and training. The strategy has grown to be more comprehensive with a focus on increasing the overall participation in democracy by Native Hawaiians. In 2016, CNHA will continue its work with additional outreach focused on Native Hawaiian youth.

"Youth civic engagement leads to reduced risky behavior, increased success in school and greater civic participation later in life," said Michelle Kauhane, CNHA President & CEO. "Our goal is to inspire young adults throughout Hawaii to get involved, engage in their communities and vote! It's a right that too many take for granted," added Kauhane.

According to CNHA, there are a number of factors that directly relate to an individual's participation or non-participation in the democratic process. However, civic skills, habits and motivations of young adults often result from opportunities for engagement during childhood and adolescence. The 16 for 2016 Initiative will provide young adults with an early introduction to civic engagement to establish voting as an important right and responsibility.

CNHA is looking to engage as many community partners as possible to support the 16 for 2016 Initiative. For more information on 16 for 2016 or to schedule a training/informational session on the initiative, please email policy@hawaiiancouncil.org

The policy center at the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement convenes non-governmental organizations around policy priorities and solutions to meet the challenges in Hawaiian communities. CNHA is a national network of Native Hawaiian Organizations, providing assistance in accessing capital and technical resources, and is a policy voice on issues important to Native Hawaiian communities. Its mission is to enhance the cultural, economic, political, and community development of Native Hawaiians. For more information about CNHA please contact us at 808.596.8155, toll-free at 1.800.709.2642, by e-mail at info@hawaiiancouncil.org, or at www.hawaiiancouncil.org. ***(PR)***

UOG students, employees required to take online Sexual Misconduct Training

University of Guam students and employees will need to take an annual Sexual Misconduct Training before the beginning of the Fall 2016 semester. Students and employees will be required to take the training every year which only takes between 15 to 30 minutes to complete.

STUDENT TRAINING:
Students must take the online training before they can register for classes for Fall 2016. To access the training, students will need their student ID number and a UOG Moodle Account.

Students who have a UOG Moodle account can access the training at: https://campus.uogdistance.com/course/view.php?id=2686

Students can retrieve their student ID from their webadvisor account information. If you need webadvisor support, please contact the UOG Information Technology Resource/Computer Center at: Email: operations@triton.uog.edu, Phone: 671-735-2630/35/40

Students can sign up for a UOG Moodle account at:

https://campus.uogdistance.com/login/signup.php

EMPLOYEE TRAINING:
All UOG personnel will receive live training the week of April 25, 2016. Follow up training will occur "online" for all employees on an annual basis. In September 2015, UOG President Robert Underwood issued a directive requiring all UOG employees to participate annually in sexual harassment training.

For more information about the University of Guam Sexual Misconduct Policy, visit www.uog.edu/helpline or contact the UOG EEO/ADA/Title IX Office at 735-2244.

For information about the Sexual Misconduct training for students, contact the UOG Admissions & Records Office at (671) 735-2202/2204/2206/2214 or email admitme@triton.uog.edu. For assistance with UOG Moodle, students can contact moodlehelp@triton.uog.edu or call (671) 735-2620 / 2621. ***(PR)***

Military to conduct exercises at W-517

The CNMI Emergency Operations Center in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas (N3) Guam, would like to inform the general public that the U.S. Military Unit will be conducting Military Exercises at Area W-517 Irregular Poly-Gon South of Guam from March 29 to 31, 12pm-8pm.

The general location of this activity will be at Area W-517 Irregular Poly-Gon South of Guam comprising southwest into International waters.

Due to the danger imposed by these activities, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is strongly advising the general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

The cooperation and understanding of the general public is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the CNMI Emergency Operations Center- Dispatch Center at telephone number (670) 237-8000, VHF MARINE CHNL16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0 or dial CNMI 211 for this advisory. ***(PR)***

ULTRA SOUND DONATION
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Marianas Medical Center recently donated an ultrasound machine to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. Dr. Tony Stearns, owner of MMC, presented the donation to CHCC CEO Esther Muna. Muna expressed her appreciation for the donation and said the machine will help patients at the obstetrics area of the hospital. Witnessing the donation was Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres and other key staff from CHCC.

Business

How the FBI might hack into an iPhone without Apple's help

NEW YORK (AP)—For more than a month, federal investigators have insisted they have no alternative but to force Apple to help them open up a phone used by one of the San Bernardino shooters.

That changed Monday when the Justice Department said an "outside party" recently showed the FBI a different way to access the data on the phone used by Syed Farook, who with his wife killed 14 people in the Dec. 2 attack.

The magistrate judge in the case postponed a hearing scheduled for Tuesday and gave the government two weeks to test its method. But federal officials have been mum about who came forward and what method they've proposed. Here are some of the leading options outside experts think the FBI might be exploring.

BACK UP AND ATTACK

One likely scenario involves making multiple copies of the iPhone's flash memory, which investigators could use to restore the phone's data should they inadvertently trigger the phone's "self-destruct" feature by making too many wrong guesses at the passcode.

That feature doesn't actually erase all the files on the iPhone. Instead, it erases a section of the iPhone's memory that contains one of the keys necessary to unlock the data on the phone. This section, known as the "effaceable storage," sits in a memory chip that theoretically could be removed and plugged into a reader device that's capable of electronically copying what's stored on the chip—and then replacing the data if it's been erased.

While the technique hasn't been proven for this purpose, forensic expert Jonathan Zdziarski said it was demonstrated in a widely circulated video that shows a Chinese smartphone vendor using a similar procedure to install more memory capacity on an iPhone. FBI Director James Comey was asked about the technique during a congressional hearing on March 1, but Comey didn't say directly whether the FBI had considered the approach.

RESET THE COUNT

A more nuanced approach would involve isolating the portion of the phone's memory where the count of how many passcode attempts have been made is stored, said Ajay Arora, CEO and co-founder of Vera, an encryption software company.

In theory, the person working on the phone would then be able to reset the count each time it approached 10, allowing investigators to make an infinite number of guesses.

"This is more technical and a little more difficult, because you'd have to isolate the section," he said. Apple hasn't provided any maps to show where that data is stored. The main problem: The FBI would run the risk of losing information if something went wrong.

Shane McGee, chief privacy officer at the FireEye cybersecurity firm, agreed that this kind of approach could potentially work. "All the government really needs is the opportunity to do a very simple, brute-force attack," he said.

FDA adds boldest warning to most widely used painkillers

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal health regulators will add their strongest warning labels to the most widely prescribed painkillers, part of a multi-pronged government campaign to stem an epidemic of abuse and death tied to drugs like Vicodin and Percocet.

The Food and Drug Administration announced Tuesday plans to add a boxed warning—the most serious type—to all immediate-release opioid painkillers, including some 175 branded and generic drugs.

Those medications, which often combine oxycodone with lower-grade medications, are among the most commonly used drugs in the U.S. and account for 90 percent of all opioid painkillers prescribed. Roughly three years ago the FDA added similar warnings to long-acting opioid drugs like OxyContin, which slowly release their doses over 12 hours or more. Now both immediate and extended-release formulations will highlight the risks of addiction, abuse, overdose and death.

The long-awaited changes come as federal and state officials struggle to curb a wave of overdoses fueled by the overprescribing of medications and a steady supply of cheap heroin.

"We're at a time when the unfathomable tragedies resulting from addiction, overdose and death have become one of the most urgent and devastating public health crises facing our country," FDA Commissioner Dr. Robert Califf said on a call with reporters. "I can't stress enough how critical it is for prescribers to have the most current information."

US expands tougher 'dolphin-safe' rules around the world

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States, facing sanctions for discriminating against Mexican tuna imports, is expanding tougher rules for labeling tuna '"dolphin-safe" on the rest of the world instead of easing up on Mexico.

Last fall, the World Trade Organization ruled that the United States was unfairly using stricter tracking and verification standards on tuna fishing in the waters from San Diego to Peru, where Mexican fleets operate, than it was imposing on fleets elsewhere. In retaliation, Mexico has been preparing to slap $472 million in tariffs against imports of high fructose corn syrup from the United States.

The U.S. decided against loosening the rules on Mexico, choosing instead a plan that "elevates requirements for tuna product from every other region of the world," U.S. Trade Rep. Michael Froman said in a statement.

The dolphin-safe labels are supposed to ensure that canned, dried and frozen tuna has been caught without endangering dolphins. Schools of tuna tend to gather and swim with some species of dolphins.

Fishermen often have located tuna by tracking dolphins with speedboats and helicopters, then circling them with nets to get at tuna underneath. To earn a 'dolphin-safe' label, tuna must have been caught on a fishing trip that did not involve harming, trapping or killing dolphins.

The new rules will require tuna boats around the world to keep more paperwork and sometimes carry government observers. Captains will also be required to undergo training in dolphin-safe tuna fishing.

Nation

Brussels airport attack is 2nd major bombing for Utah teen

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Surviving a major bombing is the extraordinary—and repeated—situation that one Utah teen can live to tell about.

Mason Wells, a 19-year-old from Sandy, Utah, is expected to make a full recovery from the bombing attack at the Brussels airport Tuesday, which left him with a surgery scar, severed Achilles tendon, head gash, shrapnel injuries and severe burns.

Wells had once again found himself at the center of a major attack—standing within feet of a bomb that exploded at the Belgian airport. The blasts in the Belgian capital killed 31 people and wounded dozens at the airport and a subway station.

Three years ago, Wells and his father felt the ground shake and narrowly escaped death from an April 2013 attack in the U.S., when a pressure-cooker bomb exploded a block away from where they were watching his mother run the Boston Marathon.

"Hopefully he's run his lifelong odds and we're done," said Chad Wells about the oldest of their five children. "I think it will make him a stronger person...Maybe the Boston experience was there to help him get through this experience."

The former high school football and lacrosse player had four months left on his two-year Mormon mission, and was planning to major in engineering at the University of Utah next fall. He also wanted to reapply to the Naval Academy after barely missing the cut after high school, his father said.

AP

Chad Wells, father of Brussels bombing victim Mason Wells, speaks about his son in his home Tuesday, March 22, 2016, in Sandy, Utah.

Clinton, Trump add to delegate leads with Arizona victories

WASHINGTON (AP)—Under a fresh cloud of overseas violence, Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton added to their delegate troves on Tuesday with victories in Arizona as the 2016 presidential contest turned into a clash of would-be commanders in chief.

Long lines and high interest marked primary elections across Arizona, Utah and Idaho that were largely an afterthought for much of the day as the world grappled with a new wave of bloody attacks in Europe. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for blasts in Brussels that left dozens dead and many more wounded.

Yet there was a frenzy of activity in Utah as voters lined up to caucus and the state Democratic Party's website crashed due to high traffic. In Arizona, voters waited two hours to cast primary ballots in some cases, while police were called to help control traffic and at least one polling place ran out of ballots.

Trump's Arizona victory gives him the all of the state's 58 delegates, a setback for his underdog challengers, who are running out of time to slow his march to the 1,237 delegates needed to claim the nomination.

On the Democratic side, Arizona's delegates are awarded proportionally, giving Clinton most of the state's delegates. Arizona and Utah featured elections for both parties on Tuesday, while Idaho Democrats also held presidential caucuses.

The results from Arizona didn't bode well for Democrat Bernie Sanders and Republicans Ted Cruz and John Kasich, who need to reverse the sense of inevitability taking hold around both party front-runners.

Heroin overdose antidote offers hope for vulnerable inmates

DENVER (AP)—When he was a teenager, Lee Gonzales could not save his uncle from a heroin overdose. Now he worries that the same drug could kill him after he gets out of jail.

As Gonzales remembers, he had roused his uncle from previous heroin stupors by propping him up and splashing water on his face. But there was no one around to help that day. And there was nothing available like the bright orange prescription bottle the 32-year-old heroin addict held in his hand on a recent morning.

"This is enough medicine to save somebody, huh?" Gonzales said, fiddling with the nasal inhaler as a doctor sat with him in a cinderblock interview room in Denver's downtown jail.

Similar scenes are unfolding in a growing number of jails and prisons across the country as health officials train soon-to-be-released inmates to use the overdose-reversal drug naloxone to save others and sometimes themselves.

Dr. Joshua Blum teaches inmates about the nasal spray, which can undo the effects of an opiate overdose almost instantly. Blum told Gonzales, who was jailed on theft warrants, he could take the antidote with him when he is freed.

"I think it's a great idea," Gonzales said.

Naloxone, also known by the brand name Narcan, has become a key tool in curbing overdoes resulting from the nation's opioid abuse epidemic. The class of drug that includes prescription painkillers and heroin was involved in a record 28,648 deaths in 2014, and opioid overdoses have more than quadrupled since 2000, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Recently released inmates are particularly vulnerable.

Asia

Taiwan takes media on tour of South China Sea island claim

TAIPING ISLAND (AP)—Taiwan flew international media to its largest island holding in the South China Sea on Wednesday in a bid to reinforce its territorial claims in the disputed and increasingly tense region.

Deputy Foreign Minister Bruce Linghu, who was leading the trip, said he intended to demonstrate that Taiping is an island capable of sustaining human habitation, and not simply a "rock" as the Philippines claims in a case brought before the Permanent Court of Arbitration. Islands are entitled to territorial waters, an exclusive economic zone and other rights not enjoyed by mere rocks.

Two dozen journalists flown to the island aboard a Taiwanese air force C-130 transport landed on an airstrip on Taiping guarded by coast guard sentries with rifles. They were shown the island's post office and its fresh water well, and were to later visit the harbor and a traditional Chinese temple.

The Philippines, along with Vietnam, also claims Taiping. Critics say Manila is seeking to have Taiping designated a rock to avoid having to share an exclusive economic zone with its own nearby island of Palawan.

The Philippines "distorted the facts and misinterpreted the law" in its arguments, Linghu told reporters at a pre-trip briefing Tuesday in Taipei, Taiwan's capital.

Manila's case, which has been rejected by China, aims to challenge Beijing's blanket claim to virtually the entire South China Sea. Yet it threatens also to harm relations between the Philippines and fellow pro-U.S. democracy Taiwan.

Taiwan, which lacks diplomatic ties to negotiate with the five other governments with territorial claims in the South China Sea, has increasingly turned to public diplomacy to reinforce its own claims.

Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeo paid a visit to Taiping in late January, drawing rare criticism from the United States, Taiwan's key ally, which has urged all parties to avoid steps that might raise tensions. Although Taiwan's claim to almost the entire region overlaps with China's, Ma has sought to cast Taiwan as a peaceful, humanitarian player in the region.

Suu Kyi to be part of Myanmar's new democratic government

NAYPYITAW, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's president-elect on Tuesday proposed an 18-member Cabinet that will include party leader Aung San Suu Kyi, the former dissident who campaigned for decades to replace the military junta with a democratically elected government.

President-elect Htin Kyaw submitted the names to parliament for a formal review and approval by legislators on Wednesday, after which the ministers' Cabinet positions will be decided.

At the top of the list is Suu Kyi, who was not able to become president because of a constitutional block, even though she led her party to a landslide victory in a general election last November.

It has been widely rumored that Suu Kyi will become foreign minister, but that's far from certain because if she were to take that post she would have to give up her parliamentary seat and end party activities.

"I doubt that Aung San Suu Kyi would take the position of the foreign minister," said Toe Kyaw Hlaign, a political analyst. "Also, working as a foreign minister requires a lot of time traveling around the world. She will have to do a lot of international relations and overseas trips, and she won't have the time to exercise control over the government."

Suu Kyi has said in the past that she will be "above the president" and govern the country indirectly.

Still, her entry into the government is a remarkable turn of fortunes not only for the Nobel Peace Prize laureate but also for the country, which had been under iron-fisted military rule since 1962. For decades the junta kept Myanmar in isolation and economic stagnation while refusing to listen to international counsel or homegrown demands for democracy.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Malaysia says possible MH370 debris found in South Africa

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysian Transport Minister Liow Tiong Lai says debris that might be part of a plane engine has been found on the southern coast of South Africa and will be checked to see if it belongs to Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, which vanished two years ago. Liow said the debris was discovered Tuesday near Mosselbay town. He said that based on early reports, there is a possibility it is part of an "inlet cowling of an aircraft engine." Liow said a team will be dispatched to retrieve the debris. The Malaysia Airlines jet disappeared on March 8, 2014, with 239 people on board while flying from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing.

17 Hindus die from alcohol poisoning in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A Pakistani police officer says at least 17 Hindus have died after consuming illegally-made alcohol during religious celebrations in southern Pakistan. Niaz Shah said Tuesday that 37 people from the Hindu community in Tando Muhammad Khan district were rushed to hospital on Monday. He says they consumed the hooch during preparations for Holi celebrations, which will begin Wednesday. Shah says 11 people have since been discharged, but nine remain in a critical condition in hospital. He says four people have been arrested over brewing the illegal drink.

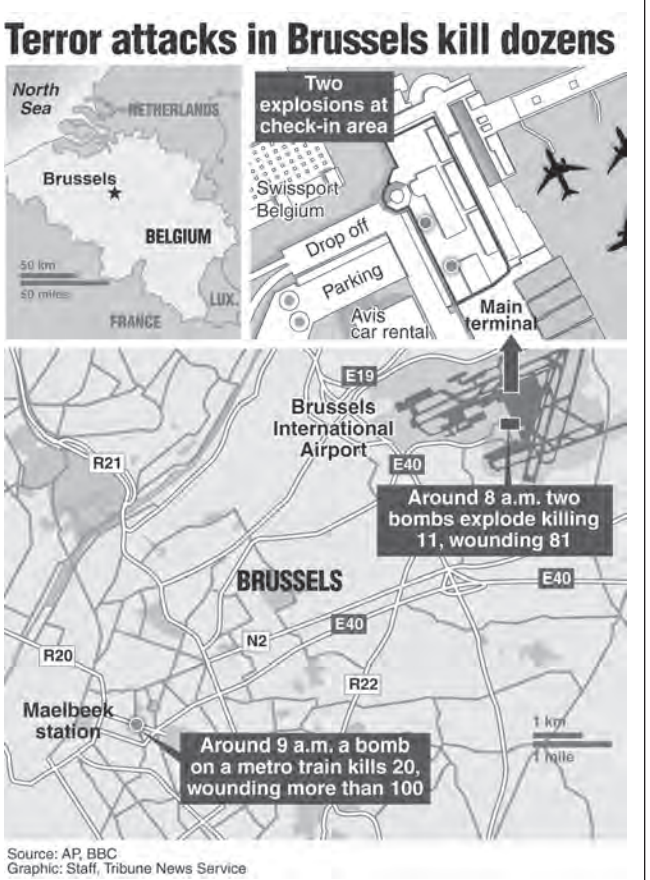
British ship believed carrying plutonium leaves Japan port

TOKYO (AP)—An armed British ship believed to be carrying enough plutonium to make about 40 atomic bombs has left a port in eastern Japan to transport the shipment to the U.S. for storage. Kyodo News agency says the British-flagged nuclear fuel transport ship Pacific Egret left the port in Tokai village, northeast of Tokyo, Tuesday, one day after arriving with another armed ship that had waited off-shore. Tokai is home to Japan Atomic Energy Agency, a research complex where the plutonium had been used for research. The ship, operated by Pacific Nuclear Transport Ltd., was to take the 331 kilograms (730 pounds) of plutonium to a U.S. government facility in South Carolina under Japan's 2014 pledge.

World

Islamic State claims deadly bombings in Brussels

BRUSSELS (AP)—Islamic extremists struck Tuesday in the heart of Europe, killing at least 34 people and wounding scores of others in back-to-back bombings of the Brussels airport and subway that again laid bare the continent's vulnerability to suicide squads.



Bloodied and dazed travelers staggered from the airport after two explosions—at least one blamed on a suicide attacker and another apparently on a suitcase bomb—tore through crowds checking in for morning flights. About 40 minutes later, another rush-hour blast ripped through a subway car in central Brussels as it left the Maelbeek station, in the heart of the European Union's capital city.

Authorities released a photo taken from closed-circuit TV footage of three men pushing luggage carts in the airport, saying two of them apparently were suicide bombers and that the third—dressed in a light-colored coat, black hat and glasses—was at large. They urged the public to reach out to police if they recognized him. The two men believed to be the suicide attackers apparently were wearing dark gloves on their left hands, possibly to hide detonators.

In police raids Tuesday across Belgium, authorities later found a nail-filled bomb, chemical products and an Islamic State flag in a house in the Schaerbeek neighborhood, the state prosecutors' office said in a statement.

In its claim of responsibility, the Islamic State group said its members detonated suicide vests both at the airport and in the subway, where many passengers fled to safety down dark tunnels filled with hazy smoke from the explosion. A small child wailed, and commuters used cell phones to light their way out.

Fear of bloody attacks becomes part of life in Europe

STOCKHOLM (AP)—Paris, Copenhagen, Brussels. In just over a year three European capitals have been ravaged by bombs and gunfire.

After each attack life slowly returns to normal. But it's a new normal for Europe, where terror alerts are always on high and where people in cities so far spared major violence assume it's a matter of when, not if.

"With each atrocity that occurs we change," said Ian Duncan, a Scottish member of the European Parliament in Brussels. "We become less open. We pull down barriers and close doors. But it is a direction we are following now."

The carnage in Brussels on Tuesday came as Europe was still reeling from the November attacks by Islamic militants in Paris that killed 130 people. In the following months France and Belgium have looked like countries at least partially at war, with soldiers in the streets, lockdowns and deadly shootouts with militants.

The rest of Europe has watched with trepidation.

"These were attacks in Belgium. They could just as well be attacks in Britain or France or Germany or elsewhere in Europe," British Prime Minister David Cameron told the BBC on Tuesday. He said Britain's threat level remains "severe," meaning an attack is considered highly likely.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attacks at the Brussels airport and in the city's subway that left dozens dead and scores more wounded.

French President Francois Hollande said the attacks targeted all of Europe and he warned of a long "war" ahead.

Though people in Western Europe have dealt with the threat of violence from Muslim extremists as well as homegrown nationalist and revolutionary movements for decades, the idea that a "war" is playing out in their streets is hard to imagine. But the recent frequency and scale of attacks have made some Europeans feel that it's just something they have to get used to.

"Five years ago you didn't think about it so much," said Francesca Cervellini, a 20-year-old Italian tourist as she passed by the Swedish Parliament in Stockholm. "It didn't happen so often before. Now it's everyday life. It's normal."

In Moscow, security has been tightened notably at everyday locations in the wake of a series of attacks in the past 15 years. There are metal detectors at the entrances to all subway stations, all passenger rail stations do luggage scans, most indoor shopping centers have metal detectors and glowering guards. Airports do luggage scans at the entrance.

In Western Europe people are more reluctant to trade civil liberties and an open society for more security. But after each attack that equation changes, at least temporarily, said Catherine Muller, of the Institute of Development Studies in Brighton, England.

Environment

MCT
Coal dust fills the air at the Absaloka coal mine in Montana.

In the West, coal represents the polluted past —except in the interior West

By WILLIAM YARDLEY
LOS ANGELES TIMES

SEATTLE—Environmentalists and energy experts have been saying it for a while now. So have private investors and federal regulators. Lawmakers across the West are increasingly saying it, too: The reign of King Coal is over.

Gov. Kate Brown of Oregon just signed into law a measure that would eliminate coal from the state's power supply in less than two decades. Here in Washington, the Legislature also just adopted a plan that would eliminate coal. Last year, California moved to use renewables for half of its electricity by 2030.

And then there is Utah.

In the final hours of the state's legislative session this month, the Utah House of Representatives began final debate on a measure to loan $53 million for a planned export facility in San Francisco Bay that would ship Utah coal to Asia. The idea is to provide a guaranteed market for coal mined in southern Utah, a region hard hit by the declining domestic coal market.

Opponents were exasperated that the plan—developed in secret last year by an investment banker who moonlighted as head of the Utah Transportation Commission—had suddenly emerged as legislation and made it to the floor barely a week after being introduced.

"If we were businessmen or a bank, and we were putting out $53 million, would we get an independent review before making that decision?" Rep. Joel Briscoe, a Democrat and the minority whip, asked the chamber. "I think we would."

But speaker after speaker rose to say that no outside analysis was necessary. Utah coal is cleaner than most, they said. So clean it will actually help China solve its pollution problems. Wary investors will be proven wrong, they said, just as they were during the Great Recession.

Besides, this was about more than coal. This was about protecting rural jobs and families beaten down by federal regulation and limited economic options. Perhaps, they said, Utah could use the access it would gain to the terminal to export oil or potash, grain or alfalfa. Or even, somehow, the message of the Mormon church.

"Let's bless the world," Rep. Derrin Owens, a Republican, told his colleagues on the Senate floor.

The bill passed, 57-17, with six lawmakers not voting. Gov. Gary Herbert, also a Republican, is expected to sign it into law.

It he does, experts say, Utah will be going against well-established momentum. While coal is expected to remain an important part of the nation's energy supply for many years, the rise of cheap natural gas and renewable wind and solar energy has sent its value into steep decline.

Utah acted on the same day that one of the nation's largest coal companies, Arch Coal, facing bankruptcy, announced that it was suspending its long-standing plans to develop an ambitious mine in Montana—in part because demand in Asia had plummeted.

It was also the same day that the United States Energy Information Administration released estimates showing national coal production declined 29 percent in the first 10 weeks of 2016 compared with the same period last year.

It acted even as the editorial page of the Deseret News, one of Utah's more conservative publications (and that is saying something), said that the bill had "too many red flags."

Yet it did not necessarily act out of character with all corners of the West. Montana lawmakers and some tribal leaders there have expressed deep frustration that states on the coast have fought efforts to export coal, with some governors and tribal leaders traveling to the coast to show support for port projects.

Wyoming, which produces more coal than any other state, has pledged $15 million toward a testing center that will look for ways to turn carbon dioxide into new products, and it has spent smaller amounts to promote the industry. Last year, it passed a law giving its public-private development arm, the Wyoming Infrastructure Authority, the ability to invest as much as $1 billion in projects out of state if it can sell bonds for them. The idea was to help build coal export terminals.

But the state has made no such investments and Jason Begger, executive director of the Wyoming agency, said in an interview this week that doing so would be risky in light of the current market and resistance to coal terminals on the coast.

"You never say never, but it would probably be unlikely that our bonding authority would ever be used on a port project," Begger said.

Other than Utah, he said, referring to coal-producing Western states, "I'm not aware of any states that have stepped up and actually provided a mechanism to provide funding to a port project."

The Utah plan did not begin in the Legislature. Last spring, Jeffrey Holt, a longtime investor in port and infrastructure projects who also served as chairman of the state transportation commission, helped develop a plan that would use $53 million in federal royalty payments from mining leases to help four coal-producing counties invest in the project. Holt and his firm, the Bank of Montreal, stood to gain more than $1 million in the deal and a related rail line.

Holt tried to keep the plan secret, saying in emails later made public that "the script was to downplay coal." The plan was criticized by environmental groups, who wrote to the Utah attorney general's office raising questions about the legality of the arrangement. In December, Holt abruptly resigned his position on the transportation commission, but he was present at the Utah Capitol this week as lawmakers considered the bill.

The law passed by the Legislature would use state money to fund the port project, but it would reimburse the state with the federal royalty money.

"It's being laundered," said Ted Zukoski, a lawyer for Earthjustice.

The plan has also met strong opposition in Oakland, where city officials have been weighing whether they can take action to stop it. Loni Hancock, a Democrat in the California state Senate who represents Oakland, wrote to her counterparts in Utah expressing opposition.

"We have to consider the broader impacts of what we do, and exporting Utah coal through the city of Oakland would undermine the many climate change and environmental policies adopted by California," Hancock wrote March 1.

The Oakland terminal project has been led by Phillip Tagami, a longtime friend and investment partner of Gov. Jerry Brown. A company owned by Tagami has agreed to lease the site to a newly created entity called Terminal Logistics Solutions.

Public records from March 2015, however, show that, at least under a plan being developed at that point, the company that would operate the terminal would be controlled in part by Bowie Natural Resources, the company whose Utah coal mines would serve the terminal. A report in the East Bay Express last week showed Bowie had made $29,000 in campaign contributions to Utah lawmakers who have supported the state's involvement. It has given $14,000 to Gov. Herbert since 2014.

Terminal Logistics Solutions did not respond to requests for comment. A lawyer for Tagami said in an email that Terminal Logistics Solutions had not yet exercised its option to develop the terminal.

"We understand they are in the midst of comprehensive due diligence regarding commodity providers interested in shipping through the terminal," the lawyer, David Smith, said. "As we understand it, Utah is one of many avenues they are looking at."

Many Western states taking strong action against coal use relatively little of it for power and have few coal mines or none at all. Many trying to save it burn lots of coal and depend heavily on mining. Many opposed are blue states with progressive environmental records, while many showing support are also challenging the Obama administration's new Clean Power Plan, which would reduce coal-burning power plants. The plan has been stayed by the Supreme Court while the challenge to it proceeds in federal court in Washington.

Experts say they understand the desire coal states may have to preserve what has been essential to their economies, but they say such thinking risks long-term problems. Spend $53 million to invest in solar energy instead, some say.

"Either you plan for an orderly transition, or else it's going to happen and you won't be prepared," said David Schlissel, an analyst with the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, a nonprofit that supports renewable energy. "The market forces aren't going away. The ostrich strategy never works."

Life & Style

Review: Worlds collide in 'Batman v Superman'

By JAKE COYLE
AP FILM WRITER

AP

This image released by Warner Bros. Entertainment shows Ben Affleck as Batman, left, and Henry Cavill as Superman in a scene from, "Batman V. Superman: Dawn Of Justice."

Zac Snyder's thundering and grim "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" offers the kind of blunt, mano-a-mano faceoff usually reserved for Predators, Godzillas and presidential candidates.

And just as has often been said of this election year, "Batman v Superman" takes a once almost charming tradition and plunges it into the gutter. Long gone are the telephone booths, corn fields or any other such tokens of innocence. And given the prevailing climate, Snyder may have judged the rock'em-sock'em moment wisely. Gentlemen, keep your fists up and your capes neatly tucked.

"Batman v Superman," as heavy and humorless as a Supreme Court decision, is an 18-wheeler of a movie lumbering through a fallen world. It hurtles not with the kinetic momentum of "Mad Max: Fury Road" nor the comparatively spry skip of a Marvel movie, but with an operatic grandeur it sometimes earns and often doesn't.

This is "Paradise Lost" for superheroes. It twists and grinds two of the most classic comic heroes, wringing new, less altruistic emotions out of them until their dashing smiles turn to angry grimaces.

After a handsome, impressionistic montage of Batman's iconic childhood, the film picks up where Snyder's Superman reboot "Man of Steel" left off but from a different perspective. Bruce Wayne (Ben Affleck) is driving through the falling debris of Metropolis while Superman (Henry Cavill) careens carelessly above.

Snyder has channeled the backlash over the high death-toll finale into Wayne, who bitterly watches Superman from the dust-filled air on the ground—a cheap evocation of Sept. 11 designed to add solemnity where there isn't any.

Months later, the two are still distrustfully circling each other. Snyder, working from a script by Chris Terrio ("Argo") and David Goyer ("Man of Steel"), delves into their opposite natures: one a godlike power from another planet who favors primary colors, the other a well-equipped human prone to a darker palette.

At a party thrown by Lex Luthor (the badly miscast Jesse Eisenberg), the billionaire-inventor who's secretly weaponizing Kryptonite, their two alter-egos are surprisingly passive aggressive. Kent, the reporter, queries Wayne about "the bat vigilante problem," while Wayne, citing the laudatory coverage of Superman in the Daily Planet, voices his distaste for "freaks who dress like clowns."

Both are combating a new environment for superheroes best articulated by none other than astrophysicist Neil DeGrasse Tyson, who, on TV, describes supermen as altering man's assumed supremacy in the universe like Copernicus' discoveries did. "We're criminals, Alfred," Batman, fresh from torturing a foe, tells his butler (Jeremy Irons, adding an icy flare to the character). "We've always been criminals."

Luthor's plot gradually brings the heroes into the same orbit, along with Wonder Woman (Gal Gadot). But it's the genuine rigor of Snyder's engagement with the psychology of Superman and Batman that keeps the film grounded and the rivalry plausible. Seeing the two warp toward villainy may be a trick, like "Seinfeld's" Jerry and Kramer switching apartments, but "Batman v Superman" is serious about contemplating the curious positions these all-powerful beings occupy in a world that has grown to resent their might.

It's in some ways an ideal film for Snyder, an exceptionally un-subtle filmmaker with the sensibility of a car crash. But as the director of "300," he knows his way around a ramming collision. And unlike Marvel films, DC Comic adaptations have, for better (Christopher Nolan's "Dark Knight" trilogy) and worse ("Man of Steel"), been works of distinct directors.

Snyder's command is less sure when it comes to, well, normal life. "Batman v Superman" would rather spend its lengthy running time in the throes of myth than somewhere like the offices of the Daily Planet, where the eminently pert Amy Adams (Lois Lane) breezes in and out.

Hulk Hogan sex-video verdict could have limited impact

AP

Hulk Hogan, whose given name is Terry Bollea, speaks to the media after a jury returned its decision Monday, March 21, 2016, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Hulk Hogan's $140 million courtroom victory against Gawker for posting a sex tape of the former pro wrestler was many things, including a lurid inside look at the business of celebrity gossip and a dispute over what constitutes newsworthiness.

But legal experts generally agree on what it wasn't: a serious threat to the First Amendment.

At this point, it is only a jury verdict, and an appeals court could reduce it or throw it out altogether. Even if it is upheld, its effects could be narrow, because in running the video, the sex-and-gossip site did something most media organizations wouldn't even consider doing, legal experts said.

Or as University of Miami law professor Mary Anne Franks put it: "It's hard to imagine that any credible media outlet is truly confused about the difference between a sex tape and the Pentagon Papers."

Hogan sued Gawker for invasion of privacy after it published a video of him having sex with his best friend's wife. Hogan said he didn't know he was being taped. Gawker argued that the footage was newsworthy information about a public figure and thus protected by the First Amendment.

The jury disagreed, awarding the 62-year-old Hogan $115 million in compensatory damages last week and $25 million in punitive damages on Monday.

Gawker's founder, Nick Denton, said he will appeal and expressed confidence the verdict will be reversed. He will still have to post a bond of perhaps tens of millions of dollars while he fights the verdict.

In a post on Gawker late Tuesday afternoon, Denton said: "The enormous size of the verdict is chilling to Gawker Media and other publishers with a tabloid streak, but it is also a flag to higher courts that this case went wildly off the rails."

Denton said the judge refused to let the jury hear crucial information, including evidence that Hogan knew the bedroom was wired for video and that the wrestler's real reason for suing was to prevent the public from learning of racial slurs he uttered on another tape.

As for Gawker Media's future, its lawyer Michael Sullivan told the jury that the compensatory damages alone could prove "debilitating." And he warned that the verdict will "send a chill down the spine of writers, producers and publishers" in the media.

Some legal experts were dubious of that.

Gawker made its fortune on the snarky and the salacious, which makes it different from traditional media outlets, said Benjamin Mullin, managing editor of Poynter.org, the website for the media ethics school based in St. Petersburg.

"Not many news organizations grapple with the decision to publish an edited sex tape," he said.

Franks conceded the verdict "might make both media and the general public more wary of engaging in blatant privacy violations, which is probably a good thing." But she said the jury decision was not out of step with previous cases involving privacy and press freedom, including a dispute over a Pamela Anderson sex tape in the 1990s.

'Batman v Superman' London premiere scales back after attack

AP

U.S. actor Ben Affleck, cast as Batman, waves as he arrive for the red carpet event promoting "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice", at the Auditorio Nacional in Mexico City, Saturday, March 19, 2016.

NEW YORK (AP)—The London premiere of "Batman v Superman" was scaled back Tuesday following the terrorist attacks in Brussels.

Warner Bros. said in a statement that "our hearts go out to the victims" and others affected by the deadly explosions at the Belgium city's main airport and subway. But the studio said it would go forward with the Tuesday-night premiere "rather than yield to terror."

However, interviews on the red carpet were canceled.

The Leicester Square premiere of "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" follows events in New York and Mexico City.

Comedian Kevin Hart to write memoir on struggle, motivations

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Add author to actor-comedian Kevin Hart's list of accomplishments.

Atria Publishing Group announced Tuesday that the "Ride Along" star is writing a memoir about his experiences growing up and early failures as a comedian that helped fuel his now-prolific career.

The book will be titled "From the Hart" and is scheduled to be released next year by Atria's imprint 37 Ink.

Hart has become a popular actor, appearing in the "Ride Along" films with Ice Cube, "Get Hard" with Will Ferrell and 2015's "The Wedding Ringer."

Hart capped the announcement of his book with some humor, joking that his children know he's a big deal because he tells them every day. Hart writes in a statement, "Now I'll have a book out to prove it."

AP

In this Feb. 28, 2016, file photo, Kevin Hart speaks at the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

Veteran actress Rita Gam dies at age 88

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rita Gam, who had a lengthy acting career on film, television and stage, has died.

Publicist Nancy Willen says the actress died in Los Angeles of respiratory failure. She was 88.

Gam starred with Gregory Peck in 1954's "Night People" and 1971's "Shoot Out" and with Jack Palance in 1954's "Sign of the Pagan" and she also starred in the film "Hannibal," ''King of Kings" and "No Exit." Her television credits included "The Rockford Files" and "Mannix."

She was born in Pittsburgh on April 2, 1927, and made her Broadway debut in 1946 before going on to a decades-long career in film and television.

Gam was married to the late director Sidney Lumet from 1949 until 1955, and was a close friend of Grace Kelly. Gam was one of Kelly's bridesmaids when she married Prince Rainier III of Monaco.

She is survived by a daughter and son from her marriage to publisher Thomas Guinzburg, and three grandchildren.

AP

In this Aug. 25, 1953, file photo, actors Gregory Peck and Rita Gam stand together in West Berlin where 20th Century Fox took shots for "Night People". Gam, who had a lengthy acting career on film, television and stage, died Tuesday, March 22, 2016.

'Real Housewives' husband set to begin prison sentence

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—The husband of one of New Jersey's "Real Housewives" is heading to prison.

An attorney for Joe Giudice said Tuesday the husband of "Real Housewives of New Jersey" star Teresa Giudice is expected to report to the Fort Dix federal prison on Wednesday to begin serving a 41-month sentence for bankruptcy fraud.

Teresa Guidice finished her 15-month sentence in December. A judge staggered their sentences so they could care for their four daughters.

The two pleaded guilty in 2014 and admitted they hid assets from bankruptcy creditors and submitted phony loan applications to get $5 million in mortgages and construction loans. Joe Giudice also admitted he didn't pay about $200,000 in taxes.

Under their plea agreement, they were ordered to pay $414,000 in restitution.

Giudice has been living in the country illegally since he was an infant, and under federal immigration laws will be deported to Italy after completing his sentence. With time off for good behavior, that could come in about 35 months, attorney Miles Feinstein said.

"It was a pleasure representing Joe," Feinstein said. "He was always great with me. The public doesn't see the real side of his personality. He accepted responsibility and, more importantly, he is a man and the head of the family and did everything to exonerate his wife."

Giudice's federal sentence will run concurrent with an 18-month state sentence for unlawful use of an ID and impersonation, stemming from his 2014 guilty plea in an unrelated case. He was charged with using his brother's identity to obtain a driver's license while his own license was suspended for driving while intoxicated in 2010.

AP

In this Oct. 2, 2014 file photo, "The Real Housewives of New Jersey" stars Teresa Giudice, and her husband Giuseppe "Joe" Giudice, left, of Montville Township, N.J., walk toward Martin Luther King Jr. Courthouse for a court appearance on federal conspiracy and bankruptcy fraud charges in Newark, N.J.

Fear of arrest prevent man from seeking help he needs

DEAR ABBY: I find myself sometimes wanting to commit the most heinous of crimes. The desire to do this has been with me my entire life. I was sexually abused by my mother and oldest brother. While that's no excuse, I understand why I may be the way I am.

At 51, I have never committed any act against a young girl, but the desire is clearly there for me. The issue before me is that if I seek help for this problem, those who can provide it are required by law in this state to report me.

How am I to overcome these urges when no matter what I do I am considered guilty?

ANONYMOUS IN AMERICA

DEAR ANONYMOUS: You should be discussing these feelings with a licensed mental health professional. If fear that you will be arrested is what is holding you back, please be aware that if the urge or feeling is not directed at anyone in particular, a therapist is not required to report what you are confiding. However, if there is a direct threat toward a specific individual, it must be reported, even if it has not yet occurred.

DEAR ABBY: I have attended many events where the national anthem has been sung by an invited guest and many where it has been pre-recorded. When the national anthem is being sung live, is it disrespectful to the performer to sing along? Some people who sing along are off-key or sing so loud they drown out the performance for the unfortunate attendees seated near them.

AUDREY IN ARIZONA

DEAR AUDREY: Our national anthem is notoriously difficult to sing, as many professionals have discovered to their embarrassment when they tried to perform it publicly. At large events during which the anthem is played, it is not uncommon for many of the audience members to be so filled with patriotic fervor that they join in. If memory serves me, the volume is usually so loud that no one can hear what's coming out of their mouths.

To the best of my knowledge, no rule of etiquette forbids anyone from singing along with Beyonce, Lady Gaga, Garth Brooks or Renee Fleming—if they have the nerve to try.

DEAR ABBY: I am an old lady, happy I can still get around using a cane. I would like to thank the many people who take the extra time to open a door for me or hold it open longer so I can get through. I am grateful for their help, and being offered a place ahead of them in the checkout line is beyond appreciated. Thank you, thank you.However, may I offer a suggestion to those helpful folks, often robust men, who want to do more? If I look unsteady, please DO NOT grab me by the arm and try to steer me like an empty bicycle! Instead, hold your arm out for me to lean on and allow me to do the navigating. It may be slow, but with your help, it will be safe.

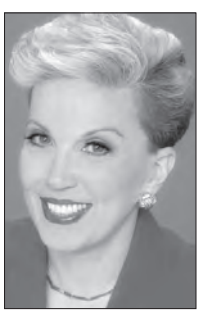
CARYL IN NEW MEXICO

DEAR CARYL: That's an excellent suggestion, and one I hope helpful readers of both sexes will pay attention to.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

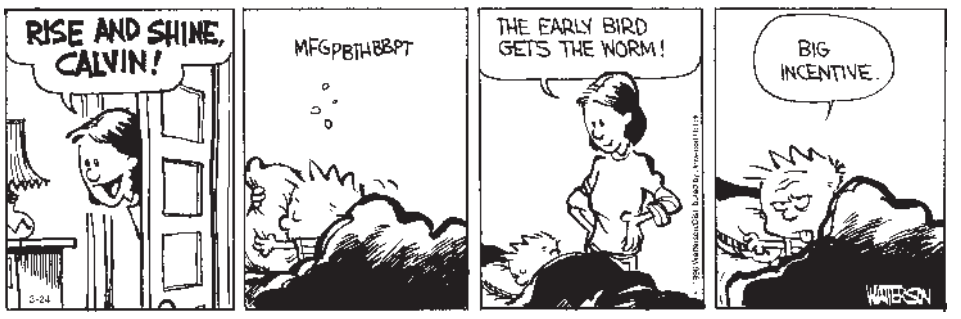


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

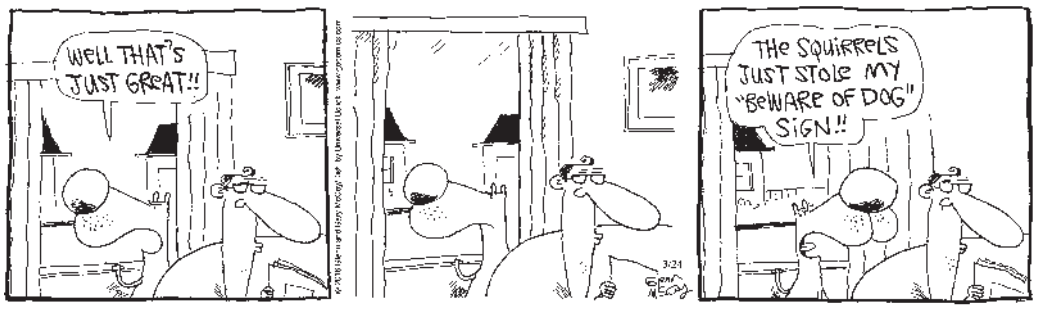
Adam@Home

By Bryan Basset

OKAY. LET'S GET RID OF THIS GHOST.
HOW?
I DID SOME RESEARCH AND FOUND AN "ANTI-GHOST DANCE" IN AN ANCIENT TEXT. IT'S SUPPOSED TO WORK GREAT.
GO ON, BUT I'M EYEING YOU SUSPICIOUSLY.
IT'S LIKE THE MACARENA, BUT WITH STUFFED ANIMALS ON OUR HEADS.
YOU HAVE MY FULL ATTENTION.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Bargain
5 Young cow
9 Cornfield noise
12 Otherwise
13 Petri dish gel
14 Flamenco cheer
15 Sight-unseen rendezvous
17 Mauna —
18 Flavors
19 Milk dispenser
21 Hosp. triage area
22 Worldweary
24 Deer little one?
27 Continental abbr.
28 Jostle
31 Submachine gun
32 Peach stone
33 Bill's partner
34 Taboo action
36 Unfriendly
37 Revue segment
38 "Pride and Prejudice" suitor
40 Santa —, N.M.
41 Baseball's Martinez
43 Cooking oil
47 Acapulco gold
48 Time of youthful innocence
51 Away from NNE
52 Composer Stravinsky
53 To be, in Tours
54 Desire
55 "Unh-unh"
56 Actress Perlman

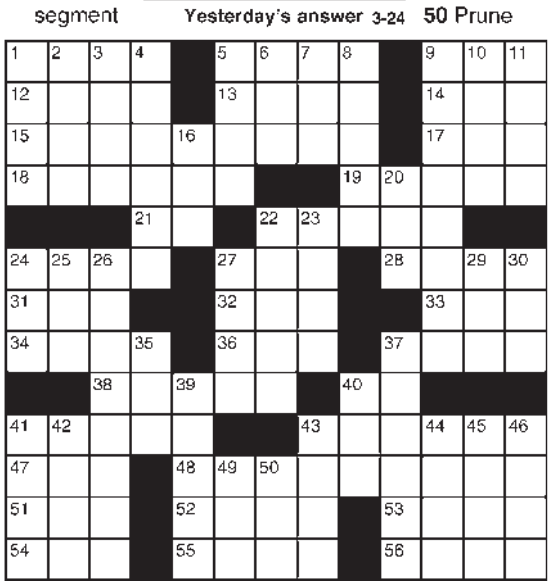
DOWN

1 Arrears
2 Big name in scat
3 Sale caveat
4 Of a pre-Easter period
5 Heels
6 Turkish title
7 Long. crosser
8 Sigmund or Anna
9 Burgundy-champagne drink
10 Bum soother
11 Sport
16 Aachen article
20 Society newbie
22 Succulent
23 Bohemian
24 Enjoyment
25 Dye type
26 Relax after work
27 Grand tale
29 Miss Piggy's query
30 Cauldron
35 Scull tool
37 Return address name
39 Cello-bow application
40 Craze
41 Bouquet
42 Gaelic
43 Give a hoot
44 Swear-word
45 Muse's instrument
46 On the briny
49 Past
50 Prune

Solution time: 24 mins.

A	D	A	R	■	A	N	N	■	I	M	A	M
R	O	U	E	■	Z	O	O	■	T	A	C	O
G	O	L	F	C	A	R	T	■	E	C	H	O
O	R	D	E	A	L	■	S	P	R	A	Y	S
■	■	■	R	Y	E	■	O	M	A	R	■	■
I	D	O	■	S	A	Y	■	S	T	O	R	E
N	I	C	E	■	S	U	P	■	E	O	N	S
K	O	A	I	A	■	I	F	D	■	N	A	P
■	■	■	R	E	N	T	■	P	O	O	■	■
O	L	I	V	I	A	■	T	U	R	B	A	N
P	I	N	A	■	S	C	A	R	F	A	C	E
E	R	A	T	■	T	I	-	■	E	R	M	A
C	A	S	E	■	Y	A	K	■	O	D	E	H

Yesterday's answer 3-24



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jessica Chastain, 39; Peyton Manning, 40; Alyson Hannigan, 42; Jim Parsons, 43.

Happy Birthday: Not everyone will be on your side or want to back your choices, so make sure to gravitate toward the ones who do. The others, however, will be worth hearing out in order to ensure you have covered every angle. Being prepared, sincere and persistent will help you find your place. Don't give in when you should be getting busy. Your numbers are 9, 14, 26, 29, 31, 37, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Size up your situation, make adjustments and move forward. Don't waste time worrying about what others do. As long as you are true to yourself and what you are trying to accomplish, that's all that matters. Be bold. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Observe others closely and incorporate what you learn into your work and your everyday challenges. Be willing to make the sacrifices necessary to achieve what's most important to you. A romantic compliment will flatter you. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Whether you participate or not isn't the problem, it's knowing what's good for you and what's not that is important. Examine the benefits and the disadvantages to each. Be patient with yourself. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Refuse to let indecision or impulsiveness push you into a precarious position. Check out every angle, and look for the path of least resistance. Home improvements will add to your comfort and peace of mind. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Take the initiative to make things happen. Your gutsy, forward-thinking ideas will help catapult you to the top of any competition you face. Speak boldly and be willing to make difficult personal or professional changes. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't expect everyone to appreciate your decisions. Put more time and effort into any matters that pertain to the legal, financial or medical situations you face. A partnership formed with someone unusual will have both challenges and benefits. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Share your ideas and see what type of response you get. Plan a day trip or sign up for a conference that will help you explore new possibilities. Walk away from manipulative people. Partnerships should be based on equality. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Evaluate your situation at home and at work. Contemplate any reasons why you should make a move or change. An emotional matter will take a sudden turn based on a decision you make regarding your professional future. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't worry about outside influences. Listen to suggestions from others, but carry on with the plans you feel work best for you. Your reputation will get a boost if you show honesty and integrity in all your dealings. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): An unpredictable situation will leave you at a loss. Don't feel you have to pay for someone else's mistakes. Counter any offers and you will be set free from an obligation you don't feel you should have to honor. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Send out your resume or sign a new contract. Make vocational moves that will help you build up your financial portfolio and secure your future. Your energy and intelligence will help you find the road to success. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Taking care of your personal interests will lead to an emotional matter that needs to be addressed. Be forthright and willing to compromise, and you will avoid wasting precious time and money. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are brainy, inventive and visionary. You are upbeat and playful.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

4		5		3		7		9
8								6
				8	1			
		6		5				
7		1		6		2		5
				2		3		
			8	9				
6								4
9		3		4		5		2

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	1	4	2	7	8	6	5	3
6	3	2	5	9	1	7	8	4
8	7	5	4	3	6	9	2	1
7	2	1	6	4	3	5	9	8
4	9	6	8	1	5	2	3	7
3	5	8	9	2	7	1	4	6
2	6	3	1	8	9	4	7	5
5	4	7	3	6	2	8	1	9
1	8	9	7	5	4	3	6	2

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

VIRTUALLY IMMORTAL Solution: 6 letters

P	O	F	M	E	M	N	O	N	Q	U	E	S	T	N
R	R	N	O	A	M	I	S	S	I	O	N	E	Y	O
O	E	E	I	R	I	N	I	L	R	E	M	L	L	I
T	P	C	S	M	E	D	T	T	S	P	S	L	O	T
E	R	O	R	E	A	V	E	E	T	S	M	I	H	A
C	O	E	M	E	R	C	E	N	O	R	Y	H	I	L
T	D	G	N	P	A	V	L	R	U	E	T	C	T	U
H	U	A	N	D	E	T	A	E	R	S	H	A	A	M
E	C	T	N	I	E	I	I	T	S	A	T	N	W	I
O	E	I	(I)	C	T	R	I	N	I	L	A	E	S	S
R	R	R	(D)	G	I	S	I	I	G	O	E	D	A	E
I	U	E	(O)	O	I	E	O	N	A	B	N	D	R	B
S	T	H	(L)	D	C	D	N	H	G	M	E	I	A	E
T	A	E	S	S	R	E	I	T	G	Y	B	H	S	H
S	N	I	C	H	E	S	E	R	U	S	A	E	R	T

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Achilles, Ancient, Beneath, Digit, El Camino, Forever, Ghosting, Gods, Heritage, Hidden, Holy, Idol, Internet, Laser, Maiden, Memnon, Merlin, Mission, Myth, Nature, Niches, Pompeii, Preservationist, Protect, Quest, Recreating, Rendering, Reproduce, Rosslyn, Saraswati, Simulation, Site, Symbol, Thebes, Theorists, Tiers, Tours, Treasures

Yesterday's Answer: Honor

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Salary: $ 6.05 per hour

Other Qualifications:
- At least 21-25 years old with pleasing personality
- Full time with flexible working hours
- Preferably can speak Japanese language fluently

(2) GENERAL MAINTENANCE
Salary: $ 6.05 per hour

Qualifications:
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- Full time with flexible working hours

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(2) WAITRESS
2-3 years experience as a waitress in a Night Bar or an Entertainment Business
Salary: $ 6.05 per hour

Other Qualifications:
- At least 21-25 years old with pleasing personality
- Full time with flexible working hours
- Preferably can speak Japanese language fluently

(2) GENERAL MAINTENANCE
Salary: $ 6.05 per hour

Qualifications:
- At least 2-3 years experience as a Commercial Building Maintenance. Preferably in Carpentry and Masonry
- Full time with flexible working hours

Please mail your resume to
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A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience. For applications to be considered, they should submit resume / application to CTSI Logistics, Lower Base not later than April 01, 2016.

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Send Resume: David L. Bush, General Manager, Hawaiian Rock Products,
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or by e-mail to dbush@hawaiianrock.com

HAW'N ROCK PRODUCTS CORP.

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Interested applicants may send their resumes to savi_recruitment@tanholdings.com. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than April 06, 2016. Applications for Employment are available at the Front Office of Century Tours Inc. located on the Ground Floor of Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe Village. Applicants must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

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Westbrook's triple-double lifts Thunder past Rockets

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Russell Westbrook's recent play has been on par with some of the game's all-time greats.

The dynamic point guard had 21 points, 15 assists and 13 rebounds to help the Thunder beat the Houston Rockets 111-107 on Tuesday night.

Westbrook has 15 triple-doubles this season and 34 in his career. It's the most triple-doubles by a player in a season since 1988-89, when Magic Johnson had 17 and Michael Jordan had 15. It was also Westbrook's sixth triple-double in March. According to STATS, it's the most by a player in a calendar month since Jordan had seven in April 1989.

"That's just a blessing," Westbrook said. "Especially getting mentioned with those guys. Those guys are Hall of Famers. My job is try to help us win games and try to win a championship."

It was his third triple-double in a row and fourth in his past five games. The Thunder improved to 15-0 this season when he gets a triple-double and 30-4 all-time.

"When he helps us rebound like that and passes the ball, it's good for our team," Thunder forward Kevin Durant said. "I think the thing is rebounds. When he rebounds like that, we're a better team. He can pass and he can score with the best of them. When he rebounds that way, it gives us a little something extra."

Durant scored 23 points and Dion Waiters added 17 to help the Thunder win their fifth straight.

James Harden had 24 points, a career-high 16 assists and seven rebounds for the Rockets. Dwight Howard had 16 points and 13 rebounds and Patrick Beverley added 16 points.

Houston led 99-97 when Westbrook took over. He found Steven Adams for a dunk on an inbounds pass, got a steal and a dunk, then made a long 2-point jumper to give the Thunder a 103-99 lead.

Harden's 3-pointer with 13.8 seconds to play cut Oklahoma City's lead to 108-107. Serge Ibaka made 1 of 2 free throws with 11.9 seconds left to give the Thunder a two-point lead. Harden then tried the get the ball down low to Howard, but Waiters stole it.

"It was the right read by both of our guys offensively, but it was a heck of a defensive play by Waiters to deflect the ball," Rockets coach J.B. Bickerstaff said.

Westbrook made two free throws at the other end with 3.5 seconds remaining to put the game out of reach.

AP

Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook (0) shoots as Houston Rockets center Dwight Howard (12) defends during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Tuesday, March 22, 2016. Oklahoma City won, 111-107.

"We felt like we were in it the whole game," Howard said. "We had great opportunities to win. K.D. made some tough shots, Russ made some tough shots and they got some stops down the stretch. That won them the game."

Westbrook scored 14 points in the fourth quarter after struggling with his shot for most of the game.

"It's just read and react," Westbrook said. "I just try to find ways. In the first half, if guys are doubling and they're coming over, I try to find open guys and trust my teammates in making shots. Late in the game, some spots opened up, and that's when I attacked."

Durant tied a career high by scoring at least 20 points for the 56th consecutive game.

"I don't care," he said. "That's what I'm supposed to do. That's what they pay me for. They rely on me every night to be consistent, and I've got to be that way."

Jordan had seven triple-doubles in just 12 games in April 1989. From March 25 to April 14, he had 10 triple-doubles in 11 games, including a stretch of seven straight.

The only other player to have at least five triple-doubles in a month since Jordan's outburst was Grant Hill, who had five for Detroit in April 1997.

Lakers 107, Grizzlies 100

In Los Angeles, Jordan Clarkson scored 22 points, Kobe Bryant added 20 and the Lakers snapped a four-game losing streak.

Bryant scored 12 points in the third quarter, but the superstar sat out the final 4:20. Brandon Bass got eight of his 18 points in the fourth while Los Angeles' younger players closed out an unlikely victory over the playoff-bound Grizzlies, who had won the clubs' first three meetings of the season.

The Western Conference-worst Lakers wrapped up an eight-game homestand with three wins, beating contenders Golden State and Memphis.

Tony Allen made all 12 of his shots while scoring 27 points for the Grizzlies, who had won two straight. Zach Randolph and Lance Stephenson added 16 points apiece.

Heat 113, Pelicans 99

In New Orleans, Hassan Whiteside had 24 points, 14 and three blocked shots to lead Miami past injury-ravaged New Orleans.

Dwyane Wade and Goran Dragic each scored 23 points for the Heat, who've won nine of 12 games to put Miami in position to grab a playoff seeding as high as third in the Eastern Conference.

Jrue Holiday scored 24 for New Orleans, but missed 16 of his 23 shots. His shooting struggles against Miami's stout defense was part of a theme for New Orleans, which shot only 39.1 percent (34 of 87) for the game.

Luke Babbitt scored a season-high 23 points for the Pelicans, who trailed by double digits for much of the game before briefly getting as close as five points in the fourth quarter.

Hornets 105, Nets 100

In New York, Nicolas Batum scored 23 points to lead Charlotte past Brooklyn.

Jeremy Lin added 21 points, a night after scoring 29 in Charlotte's rally from 23 down to beat the San Antonio Spurs.

Brook Lopez had 29 points, nine rebounds and a season-high six assists, and Sean Kilpatrick added a career-high 25 points for the Nets.

Batum hit two big shots down the stretch to key the win. Batum had a four-point play to put Charlotte up 91-84 with 4:11 left and 3-pointer to extend the lead to 96-88 with 2:44 remaining.

Bojan Bogdanovic cut the deficit to 98-97. Kemba Walker then sank two free throws to push Charlotte's lead to 100-97 and the Hornets never looked back.

SIDEBAR LeBron steps away from social media, wants Cavs to follow

CLEVELAND (AP)—LeBron's locked in already. Now he's got to get the Cavs to, ahem, follow him.

Following a personal rite of spring he began several years ago, LeBron James has begun preparing for the upcoming NBA playoffs by limiting his access to social media in order to avoid outside distractions as he and the Cavaliers make another run at an NBA title.

James, who has coined his social media blackout "Zero Dark 23," took some early steps toward sharpening his focus by unfollowing the Cavaliers' account—and those of some media members—on Twitter. That click, which coincided with the 10-year anniversary of the online social networking giant's launch, caused a seismic wave on the Internet at nearly the same time James and the Cavs were clinching their second straight Central Division title.

James recorded his 41st career triple-double in Cleveland's 124-91 victory over Denver, and then fueled more speculation afterward by refusing to comment on the reason he unfollowed @cavs.

And while the four-time league MVP didn't offer any specifics Wednesday, he did acknowledge that he's shifted into playoff mode with several weeks still left in the season.

"I have, a little bit sooner than normal," he said following practice. "But you know I understand that it's right around the corner and I want to start mentally preparing myself for the distance. So mentally I'm just being a little more sharper minded as of late, just gearing toward it."

Although he wants to engage less often on social media, James was back on Twitter twice on Wednesday. He first told his 29 million followers that he may join Snapchat this week for "Another way for my fans to ride with me throughout my journeys."

Later, James sent out prayers to TNT sideline reporter Craig Sager, who is battling cancer.

James' social media habits have come under greater scrutiny during his second season back in Cleveland after he posted several mysterious messages, some of which seemed aimed at teammates. His Twitter cleansing also came on the same day he declined to speak to reporters following the team's morning shootaround, and James was also more subdued before the game.

James usually plays music while he dresses at his corner locker, barking out lyrics along with some of his hip-hop favorites. He's the Cavs' in-house DJ.

But before Monday's game, James kept his headphones on, prompting teammate Channing Frye to ask him why he was "hogging" the tunes.

In his 13th season, James, who has been to the Finals in each of the past five years, knows how to motivate himself and his teammates. And although the Cavs have the best record in the Eastern Conference, they've been inconsistent.

Cleveland was beaten at Utah last week and blown out Saturday night in Miami.

James, though, feels the team is beginning to hit its stride at the perfect time.

"At the end of the day, we're 9-3 in our last 12, so, I mean, we're playing some good ball," he said. "We just didn't play how we want to play in the Utah game and in Miami, but we're playing some good ball."

With Obama, Castro watching, Rays beat Cuban team

AP

President Barack Obama greets Tampa Bay Rays players before a game with the Cuban national team in Havana, Cuba, Tuesday, March 22, 2016. The crowd roared as Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro entered the stadium and walked toward their seats in the VIP section behind home plate. It's the first game featuring an MLB team in Cuba since the Baltimore Orioles played in the country in 1999.

HAVANA (AP)—When Kevin Kiermaier slid into home for the Tampa Bay Rays' first run of the day, President Barack Obama flung his arms wide in the sign for "safe."

Then he turned to his left and shook the hand of his seatmate and Cuban counterpart, Raul Castro.

The scene was a remarkable milestone for sports diplomacy as the two presidents try to set aside more than 50 years of Cold War hostility during which about the only thing the countries agreed on was a shared love of baseball.

Obama and Castro even joined in when fans were doing "the wave."

In the landmark game, the first visit by a major league team to the communist island since 1999, the Rays beat the Cuban national team 4-1 on Tuesday.

James Loney homered and drove in three runs, and Matt Moore and the Tampa Bay pitchers shut out the Cubans until Rudy Reyes homered in the ninth inning.

But the day will be remembered less for the final score than for the two men sitting in the front row at Estadio Latinoamericano, the last stop on Obama's trip to Cuba this week in a bid to further pave the road toward normalized relations.

The near-capacity crowd roared as Obama and Castro entered and walked toward their seats right behind home plate, waving to fans and greeting other dignitaries.

Chants of "Raul! Raul!" broke out.

Rarely has so much pomp and circumstance accompanied an exhibition game. Former All-Stars Derek Jeter and Dave Winfield and Major League Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred were among the president's greeters. Secretary of State John Kerry was also in the VIP box, as well as several of Cuba's highest officials.

Before the first pitch, Rays players walked over from the dugout to say hello and passed flowers and small Cuban flags through the netting to first lady Michelle Obama and first daughter Sasha.

"Appreciate you guys," said the president, clad in a white shirt and sunglasses. Castro was slightly more formal in a blazer.

Obama shared an extended handshake with ace pitcher Chris Archer, who once was a minor leaguer for the Chicago Cubs. He gave Obama, a White Sox fan, a glove owned by Moore.

The last time a big league club played in Cuba was 17 years ago when the Baltimore Orioles came to this same stadium during spring training.

"We won't experience anything like this again," Rays manager Kevin Cash said afterward. "So it's a very special day for Major League Baseball, the Tampa Bay Rays and obviously all of our players, myself included."

Said Moore: "It's really great, you know, this is something that feels like a very big game back home ... I've had the opportunity to be in the playoffs a few times and this feels like that kind of an event."

Both Obama and Castro were gone by the third inning - with Obama heading to the airport to fly south for a state visit to Argentina - but the stands remained packed until the final out.

Reyes, a hometown favorite who plays for Havana's powerhouse club Industriales, finally gave the fans a reason to cheer with his solo shot.

"It kind of went quiet for a little bit, but then they get something going, you can imagine how loud this place can get when it's championship baseball," Cash said.

The day left Reyes imagining something else, too.

"A lot, this game meant a lot, because of the brotherhood there will be from now on" between Cuban and U.S. baseball, the third baseman said.

The diamond detente will help "open the door to the possibility that Cuban baseball players can play" in the majors, he said.

What the game lacked in offensive productivity from the home team, it made up for in pageantry.

Loud music and dancers on the field warmed the crowd up beforehand, and tots in tiny baseball uniforms escorted the players out for introductions.

A white-clad choir sang both countries' national anthems and a flock of doves was unleashed from the center-field stands. The Cuban and U.S. flags fluttered atop the scoreboard under overcast skies.

The stadium known as "El Latino" got a facelift just before the Rays' visit, providing a freshly scrubbed backdrop.

"It's beautiful. The field looks marvelous," said Guillermo Gonzalez, an 18-year-old university student. "We are celebrating a union between two peoples, between the United States and Cuba. It's marvelous."

The stands were notably more mellow than your average Cuban game, where the music, dancing and horn-blowing can be practically nonstop.

Admission was free, and tickets were distributed to Cubans through organizations such as student groups and workplaces. That essentially assured a well-behaved crowd and no government opponents around to protest.

Serena, Djokovic differ on issue of equal pay in tennis

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla. (AP)—Some of the top players in tennis expressed disgust Tuesday with the comments made by the now-former director of the BNP Paribas Open tournament in Indian Wells, with Serena Williams also disagreeing with fellow No. 1 Novak Djokovic on the issue of equal pay.

Raymond Moore, the former chief operating officer and tournament director, resigned late Monday, a day after telling reporters that female players should be thankful to their male counterparts "because they ride on the coattails of the men."

"If I was a lady player, I'd go down every night on my knees and thank God that Roger Federer and Rafa Nadal were born, because they have carried this sport," he added. Moore later apologized, but stepped down 24 hours later.

Players, both men and women, quickly denounced the comments and that continued Tuesday at the Miami Open. But there was also concern raised about comments Djokovic made suggesting the men should seek more money because their matches tend to attract more spectators.

"I think that our men's tennis world, ATP world, should fight for more, because the stats are showing that we have much more spectators on the men's tennis matches," Djokovic said earlier this week. "I think that's one of the reasons why maybe we should get awarded more."

Williams disagreed when asked about the comments.

"If I have a daughter and she plays tennis, and I have a son who plays tennis, I wouldn't say that my son deserves more money because he's a man," she said. "I would say they deserve the same amount of money.

"I think (Djokovic) is entitled to his opinion," she added. "But if he has a daughter - I think he has a son right now - I think he should talk to his daughter and tell her his son deserves more money than you because he's a boy."

Andy Murray, ranked No. 2 in the world, believes in equal pay.

"I think there should be equal pay, 100 percent, especially at all combined events," Murray said. "The timing of it was just so strange. It was right before you had a great women's final with like 16,000 people sitting in the stadium.

He also noted that interest and attendance differs depending on the matches, saying a Williams match in Miami will pack a stadium more than many men's matches.

Chop blocks eliminated, PAT snaps from 15 permanent

BOCA RATON, Fla. (AP)—The chop block has been entirely outlawed from NFL games, and extra-point kicks snapped from the 15-yard line are now permanent.

NFL owners voted Tuesday to approve both those proposals by the competition committee. They also passed a resolution to expand what is a horse-collar tackle to cover the nameplate on the back of jerseys.

In all, seven rule proposals were approved. The others involved coach-to-player communications from the sideline as well as the press box; adding a delay-of-game penalty to a team that calls a timeout when it has none remaining; removing a 5-yard penalty for a receiver illegally touching a pass after being out of bounds; and eliminating multiple spots of enforcement for a double foul after a change of possession.

The chop block, in which a player blocks an opponent low while the opponent is engaged high with another player, had become more limited in the league because of various rule changes. Now, all forms of it have been banned, with violators drawing a 15-yard penalty.

The competition committee felt it was a dangerous play. Some NFL coaches believe eliminating the chop block will affect the ground game.

"It definitely changes some things," Broncos coach Gary Kubiak said. "That definitely changes some of your teachings of your techniques. ... The change would be in the box. We'll see how it goes."

The extra point snaps from the 15 were an experiment for 2015 that worked so well that making it permanent was a given. Efficiency on extra points from the 33-yard-line or so dropped from more than 99 percent to just over 94 percent.

"We made it a meaningful play," said Rich McKay, president of the Atlanta Falcons and co-chairman of the competition committee.

Like the chop block, the horse-collar tackle can lead to serious injuries. This alteration makes the call easier for on-field officials.

"This play has really evolved, or this rule has evolved over the years," said Dean Blandino, the NFL's officiating director. "Your classic horse collar (is) where the defensive player gets inside the collar of either the jersey or the shoulder pad from behind or the side, and pulls the runner toward the ground. We had several plays over the last couple of years, and you just watch this at full speed and it's the same mechanic. ...

US goalies Howard, Guzan vie for playing time

MIAMI (AP)—Goalkeeper Tim Howard says his decision to leave the English Premier League had nothing to do with being benched at Everton.

It was the chance to play elsewhere—specifically, the Colorado Rapids of Major League Soccer.

"It gives me a chance to be in the shop window for the next World Cup," he said Tuesday. "And the excitement of building something in Colorado. People don't care to hear that, but that was the most important thing."

Howard now faces another fight for playing time—on the U.S. national team.

Coach Jurgen Klinsmann declined to say Tuesday whether he will go with Howard or Brad Guzan when the Americans play at Guatemala on Friday in a World Cup qualifier. The return leg is March 29 in Columbus, Ohio, and the U.S. can clinch a berth in the final round of qualifying by winning both games.

Guzan, like Howard, plays in the Premier League—for Aston Villa. The 37-year-old Howard lost his job at Everton to Joel Robles and hasn't played in a match since Jan. 24.

AP

U.S. soccer goalkeepers Tim Howard, left, and Brad Guzan, warm up at Barry University in Miami Shores, Fla., Monday March 21, 2016. The U.S. men's soccer team is preparing for its pivotal home-and-home World Cup qualifiers against Guatemala.

"Everything's a factor," Klinsmann, speaking from training camp at Barry University, said when asked about Howard's two months of inactivity. "We follow every player, no matter if they are playing in Europe, Mexico or in the MLS. You want them all to do well. You want them all to make statements through their club performances."

Klinsmann expressed confidence in both Guzan and in Howard, who started for the U.S. at the 2010 and 2014 World Cups.

"We have the highest respect for Tim and Brad," he said. "Having a player like Tim back in our group is huge because of his experience. Is it more ideal if he (were starting for Everton)? Absolutely. ... He's played I don't know how many hundred games in the Premier League. He knows how to deal with (inactivity). He is calm. He is a top professional."

Howard signed with Colorado on Sunday and is to join Colorado when the transfer window opens in July.

"I was excited to put pen to paper," he said.

Howard said it would be wrong to conclude he left Everton because of his reduced role.

"I don't think it played much of a factor," he said. "That seems the easy reason on the outside. I had two years left at the club that I love, and I planned on playing those out until this opportunity came up. It was an opportunity I couldn't pass up."

Howard signed with Colorado through the 2019 season.

Meanwhile, Klinsmann said he felt good about the chances of midfielder Fabian Johnson and forward Jozy Altidore being ready to play. Altidore injured a hamstring last month and returned as a 77th-minute substitute Sunday for Toronto. Johnson injured a groin Friday playing for Borussia Moenchengladbach.

"They are not 100 percent yet," Klinsmann said. "Hopefully by Friday, they will be close to 100 percent."

Meanwhile, teenager Christian Pulisic could join the U.S. national team for next week's World Cup qualifier against Guatemala in Columbus, Ohio.

The 17-year-old midfielder from Hershey, Pennsylvania, made his Bundesliga debut with Borussia Dortmund in January. Dortmund said on its website Tuesday that Pulisic "had to cancel his trip to the U.S. national team because of an infection" but hopes "he can join the national team at a slightly later stage."

The U.S. Soccer Federation then said Pulisic originally had been on the roster for the home-and-home qualifiers against Guatemala but was dropped Sunday morning before the announcement.

Pulisic was part of the U.S. team at last year's Under-17 World Cup. He has yet to appear for the full national team.

In the women's division, the U.S. has called up 17-year-old forward Ashley Sanchez for the first time before two exhibitions against Colombia.

Coach Jill Ellis announced 23 players Tuesday who will be invited to training camp. Twenty-one were on the roster for this month's SheBelieves Cup, when the No. 1-ranked Americans defeated three of the world's top teams.

SBL opens 2016 season on March 28

The 2016 Saipan Baseball League will kick off on March 28 at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Baseball followers and supporters will once again witness some of the greatest display of athletic skills, sportsmanship, competiveness and camaraderie at the island's hub of baseball, as the 2016 edition of SBL rolls off with much excitement and anticipation. Eight teams, the most entries thus far, will see action starting Monday. Among the entries are the GSM Brewers, proud holders of three straight (2013, 2014 and 2015) championships in the league.

In the hunt to dethrone the defending champions are last year's runners-up Tanapag Falcons, returnees North Starz, Yankees, Blue Jays, and newcomers Titanium, Aces and the CK Bears. Majority of the teams are filled with talented players, both young and old, and SBL looks forward to yet, another exciting season.

Games will be played every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday starting at 6:30pm. The 2016 season will adopt a two round-robin format with the Top 4 teams advancing to the postseason. The semifinals will be played in a best-of-three series, while the finals will utilize a best-of-five format.

All managers and coaches must attend a meeting today at 5:30 pm at conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium to finalize details of the league. Game schedules and ground rules will be distributed and SBL reminds squads to bring their preliminary rosters and team entry fees to the meeting. Roster/waiver provided by the league must be signed by all rostered players. Failure to sign waivers will result in non-participation this season.

The SBL at the same time, requests the presence of all active members of the umpiring crew for a briefing prior to the league's opening on Monday. Umpire's schedule and copies of MLB rule books will be distributed today.

Further information regarding the league and other related SBL matters may be obtained from SBL director Tony Rogolifoi and he can be reached at 234-6672, or 285-3966. ***(PR)***

NMC

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ucation in the CNMI. The donation just goes to show that they care about education," Mabel Ayuyu said.

"I believe they been donating to the foundation golf tournament just for the past few years, so we're hoping that they will do this annually," she added.

For his part, Joe Ayuyu Jr. said they want to invest in education and support any event that promotes it to help shape the future of the young generation.

"We're just a big supporter of education. Education is where the future is. We want to support those who help educate our CNMI youth. Also, were are doing this to give back to the community, which has been very good to our business, patronizing our products. It's our responsibility to give back to the community and work hand in hand with them," Joe Ayuyu Jr. explained.

The donation from McDonald's is the first and biggest cash the tournament received, according to James. To date, they have about $20,000 ETC donation and $10,000 from 25 to 30 donors.

"We are very excited for next month's tournament as more sponsors are coming in to support this worthy cause. We are very thankful to McDonald's , which gave us the first cash donation, and other supporters of the foundation and the golf tournament," James said.

TSL Foundation and Express Financial were the other companies/groups that have made early donations for the tournament.

Part of the proceeds from the tournament will be used to repair or construct facilities at the NMC campus that sustained damage from Typhoon Soudelor last year.

This year's NMC Foundation Open golf competition will have six flights: Championship, A, B, C, Seniors, and Ladies. Entrance fee is only $100. So far, 60 have registered and James said they are looking to have a minimum of 90 players.

To register or donate and for more information, contact NMC at 237-6780 or email Glenn at james.glenn@marianas.edu. Registration forms are also available at Laolao Golf Resort and at the NMC Cashier (Building N: hours of operation from 9am to 4pm), where payments can be made, as well.

RACE

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In the Guam event, the four members of the CNMI girls team are divided into two groups. Miyawaki and Raulerson are in Pool A along with the host's Kaia Malakooti and Alyssa Merletti. In Pool B, Gregoire and Kaga are joined by Jocelyn Tenai and Alexia Brown.

In the boys division, Paik, Woo, and Schorr are in Pool A, while Guam's Kian Malakooti completes the field. In Pool B, Song and Lee are joined by Dakota Gibson.

The tournament in Guam is also a preview of the 2016 North Pacific Regional Championships, which Saipan will be hosting in June. Majority of the CNMI's nine U14 players are likely to square off against the same foes when they play in the North Pacific qualifying and battle for tickets for the 2016 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships, which will take place in August in Fiji.

Meanwhile, selection for the CNMI Junior Team that will compete in the North Pacific event will not be made until Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Federation holds the national championships next month. Players will be picked based on their performance and total ranking points from the four tournaments under NMITA's 2015-2016 calendar. The first three competitions were the Tan Holdings Tennis Classic, Coconut Tennis Classic, and Pacific Islands Club Tennis Championships.

SUZUKI

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Maido, 77-73. The SSC bet won the 50m backstroke (35.34 seconds) and the 50m freestyle (28.54 seconds) and placed second in the 50m butterfly (32.84 seconds).

Meanwhile, Angel Marie Tan made it to the girls 17 to 18 age group record list for the first time after competing in the 50m breaststroke event last weekend.

She timed in at 41.43 seconds to break the 42.51 NMSA Female Athlete of the Year awardee Victoria Chentsova set in the same tournament last March 14, 2015. Tan defeated Angel De Jesus in the race, as the latter submitted 45.81 seconds.

Her new mark was a big boost to Tan, who just returned to active swimming last weekend after taking a hiatus for several months. The 50m breaststroke record was also her seventh in different age groups. In the 9 to 10 division, Tan owns three marks (50m, 100, and 200m breaststroke), while in the 11 to 12 age group, she has two (50m breaststroke and 400m IM). She also holds a record in the 13 to 14 division—the 50m backstroke.

Besides the 50m breaststroke, Tan raced in the 100m freestyle (1:10.09), 100m butterfly (1:24.83), 50m butterfly (35.27 seconds), 200m IM (2:56.34), and 50m freestyle (32.12 seconds), too.

2016 AFC Women's Football Day

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

An MP United youth player kicks the ball during a drill held as one of the activities in the 2016 AFC Women's Football Day which Northern Mariana Islands Football Associated hosted last Sunday at the William S. Reyes Elementary School.

NMIFA staff Jersh Angeles, second right, gestures to participants before conducting a drill.

Youth female players line up while listening to instructions from Angie Ito.

Participants and volunteer coaches do drills in groups.

Participants enjoy one of the drills.

Female youth players and volunteer coaches perform warm-up drills.

Two Tan Holdings youth players team up in a drill, while Shirley's members wait for their turn.

Participants and volunteer coaches pose for a group photo after the event.

Two youth female players battle for the ball during a small-sided game.

Westbrook's triple-double lifts Thunder past Rockets

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With Obama, Castro watching, Rays beat Cuban team

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Suzuki, Tan break swim records

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Swim Club's Lennosuke Suzuki added three more entries to the CNMI record books at the conclusion of the 2016 SSC International Invitational Meet last week at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Suzuki, who just last month earned his first age group mark (50m freestyle/28.13 seconds), this time set three in the boys 11 to 12 division. He started his string of record-breaking swims last Friday when he timed in at 1:01.48 in the 100m freestyle and broke the 1:02.42 registered by SSC alumni Joshua Taitano on May 5, 1994.

The new age group record also handed Suzuki the first place finish in the event, more than four seconds ahead of Palau's Jericho Maido (1:05.64). Suzuki also defeated Tsunami Saipan's Nelson Batallones (1:08.44), Juhn Tenorio (1:13.61), and Dan Illahi (1:51.70), fellow SSC members Rintaro Miyawaki (1:21.15) and Akira Kadokura (1:29.44), and Kihleng Kyler (1:24.26).

Suzuki's two other marks also eclipsed Taitano's 22-year-old records. The 12-year-old swimmer clocked in at 2:17.20 in the 200m freestyle race last Saturday morning to crush the 2:18.66 Taitano posted on March 28, 1994. Suzuki then returned for the Saturday afternoon session and picked up where he left off, surpassing Taitano's record in the 200m individual medley. The young SSC bet logged 2:34.15 to shatter the 2:35.68 Taitano got on April 1, 1994.

In the 200m IM, Suzuki was also the top finisher, touching the wall more than 11 seconds ahead of Maido (2:45.58). Batallones and Tenorio joined the same race and timed in at 2:54.76 and 2:58.71, respectively. In the 200m freestyle, Suzuki posted his biggest lead (nearly 15 seconds), as his closest pursuer—Batallones—clocked in at 2:31.52. Tenorio (2:39.46), Miyawaki (2:58.57), Kadokura (3:18.17), and Nathian Pagaduan (3:37.58) were ranked third to sixth.

Suzuki competed in three other individual events and ruled two of them to take the top honors in his age group, winning a close fight against

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SUZUKI

TAN

NMC golf tourney gets $5K donation from McDonald's

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Support to the 13th Annual NMC Foundation Open Golf Tournament keeps on coming with McDonald's joining the list of sponsors of the April 30 competition.

McDonald's donated $5,000 cash for the tournament that will take place at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort. McDonald's shift manager Joe Ayuyu Jr. handed the ceremonial check to NMC Foundation board member Mary Tenorio during a brief ceremony yesterday at McDonald's Middle Road. NMC Foundation chair Mabel Ayuyu and director James Glenn were also present at the donation turnover ceremony.

"We are very thankful to McDonald's for stepping up and supporting this year's tournament, which is very special because the college is celebrating its 35th year of providing quality ed-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

McDonald's shift manager Joe Ayuyu Jr., fourth left, hands over the ceremonial check donation to NMC Foundation chair Mabel Ayuyu, second left, and board member Mary Tenorio, while the restaurant's staff and NMC Foundation director James Glenn join them for a group photo yesterday at McDonald's Middle Road.

Race positive about jr. players' chances in Guam

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI coach Jeff Race, left back row, and his nine players pose for a group at the departure area of the Saipan International Airport yesterday before leaving for Guam for a weekend tournament.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI coach Jeff Race is confident that majority of his players will make it to the playoff round of the 44th Annual Chamorro Open.

Race and the Commonwealth's nine U14 players—Robbie Schorr, Ken Song, Sean Lee, Ji Min Woo, Seung Jin Paik, Malika Miyawaki , Conatsu Kaga, Asia Raulerson, and Maria Gregoire—left Saipan yesterday in time for the tournament that will be held at the Rick Ninete Tennic Center in Agana, Guam this weekend.

"I am positive we will be able to sweep the semifinal slots," Race said.

"Our players have been doing well in their training sessions and I am confident they are ready to compete and do their best," he added.

The competition in Guam is sanctioned by Oceania Tennis Federation as ranking points will be at stake in the event. It is part of OTF's Junior Circuit with member countries hosting at least one competition every year to determine the top players in the U14 age group. The CNMI hosted its own Junior Circuit-ranking tournament last November during the 7th Tan Holdings Tennis Classic. The circuit is on its second year with Schorr and Song making it to the Top 5 of the pilot program last year.

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